

Asean ministers agree to consider FTA with EU

AFP/Hanoi

Economic ministers from Southeast Asian nations ended a meeting in Vietnam Wednesday agreeing to study a potential free trade agreement (FTA) with the European Union, a joint statement said.

Ministers or senior officials from the 10 Asean countries met EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson in Hanoi on Wednesday after talks amongst themselves the previous day.

The ministers discussed implementation of the "Trans-Regional EU-Asean Trade Initiative" and told Mandelson of its value in promoting

regional integration as well as for "greater understanding between the two regions."

"These are important components not only in integrating Asean member countries but also in fostering Asean-EU economic cooperation, which would pave the way towards a closer... partnership," the statement said.

Mandelson for his part briefed the Asean ministers on the new EU generalised system of preferences but said that "because of some sensitivities, especially in the textile sector, the process has been delayed," it noted.

The European Union has been considering the launch of an investi-

gation into soaring Chinese clothing imports after the ending of a global quota system on January 1, while France has urged more immediate measures to protect European textile producers.

The European Commission, while facing pressure from the textile industry to act against Chinese imports, is wary of moving too quickly for fear of stirring up a painful dispute at the World Trade Organisation.

On Tuesday, the Southeast Asian ministers discussed implementation of the Asean Framework Agreement for the Integration of Priority Sectors.

Under it, measures are identified to enable the integration of agro-

based products, air travel, automotive, e-Asean, electronics, fisheries, healthcare, rubber-based products, textile and clothing, tourism, and wood-based products.

The ministers also broached issues regarding economic cooperation with non-block members namely China, Japan, South Korea, India, Australia and New Zealand to establish FTAs.

They noted that the region should examine the possible impacts of FTAs on integration plans and set up effective coordination to safeguard the interests of all members, especially the less advanced ones -- Vietnam, Laos, Cambodia and Myanmar.

Maruti rolls out five millionth vehicle

AFP, New Delhi

India's largest carmaker Maruti, which is majority-owned by Japan's Suzuki Motor Corp, rolled out Wednesday its five millionth vehicle since operations started two decades ago.

"It has taken us 20 years to reach the five million mark. With your good wishes, we will try to achieve the next five million in half the time," Maruti managing director Jagdish Khattar told employees.

Maruti's small and compact 800 model won instant popularity when it was launched in December 1983 at a time when the venerable Ambassador was virtually the only model available in India.

A host of global carmakers have since entered India and Maruti's share of the expanding market has declined from over 80 percent in the 1990s to around 60 percent.

Maruti is to invest 32.72 billion rupees (750 million dollars) in a new car plant and an engine and transmission facility in Manesar, in the northern state of Haryana, to expand production.

The company sold 536,301 vehicles in India and for export during the financial year ended March.



PHOTO: ICMAB

Khairuzzaman Chowdhury, chairman of National Board of Revenue (NBR), along with a ten-member delegation of Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh (ICMA) headed by its President Md Ruhul Amin, poses for photographs at a pre-budget discussion meeting in Dhaka Monday. The ICMA proposals on income tax and customs duty and VAT for the forthcoming national budget of FY2005-06 were discussed at the meeting.



PHOTO: EASTERN BANK

K Mahmood Sattar, managing director and CEO, and Ali Reza Iftikhar, deputy managing director and COO of Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL), pose for photographs with the participants of a three-day workshop on 'Sales Leadership' in Dhaka recently. EBL, in association with SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF), organised the workshop for the bank's officers.



PHOTO: UNITED COMMERCIAL BANK

Hamidul Huq, managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL), and MH Samad, managing director and CEO of Central Depository Bangladesh Ltd (CDBL), sign an agreement on behalf of their organisations in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, the UCBL paper shares will be turned into electronic ones. UCBL Deputy Managing Director Niaz Habib and executive vice-presidents MS Kamal Uddin and Ruhul Amin and CDBL Head of Equity Market Sumon Das were also present at the signing ceremony.



PHOTO: DSE

Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) Ltd and Securities and Exchange Commission jointly organised a two-day training course on types of securities for the authorised representatives of DSE's member firms on Tuesday in Dhaka. ASM Khaeruzzaman, chief executive officer (in charge) and head of IT of DSE, made the welcome address at the inaugural session.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (April 27, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy	Buy	Buy	Buy	Buy
TT/USD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
64.0700	64.1000	USD	63.1250	63.1040	63.0619
84.1303	84.1697	EUR	80.6947	80.6777	80.6138
122.7773	122.8348	GBP	119.4262	119.3864	119.3606
50.4772	50.5108	AUD	48.2023	48.1862	48.1540
0.6111	0.6114	JPY	0.5893	0.5892	0.5888
54.5137	54.5393	CHF	52.5123	52.4944	52.4558
9.4933	9.4977	SEK	8.4785	8.4757	8.4700
51.9332	51.9575	CAD	50.1108	50.1940	50.1606
8.2237	8.2275	HKD	8.0863	8.0863	8.0782
39.2490	39.2673	SGD	38.1098	38.0971	38.0716
17.5867	17.5949	AED	17.0484	17.0427	17.0313
17.2213	17.2293	SAR	16.6997	16.6942	16.6830
11.6565	11.6620	DKK	10.5352	10.5317	10.5247
215.849	215.953	KWD	215.4021	215.3326	215.1937

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kronner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.59	59.45	99.755	39.60	6.2662	0.7717	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Wednesday. Dollar ended almost unchanged against Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate eased and ranged between 3.00 and 5.00 percent compared with 5.00 and 7.00 percent previously.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 27/4/2005

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/2	Taraman Bbl	Rice(G)	Viza	Nishat	16/4	27/4	2451
J/3	Mu San	Tsp	Limond	Orbita	27/4	27/4	951
J/4	Xiang Jiang (Liner)	GI	Chin	Cosco	21/4	27/4	741
J/5	Safinah	GI(St.Scrap)	P. Guda	PMIL	18/4	03/5	1170
J/6	Island Gem	GI(St.Scrap)	Candit	Brsal	26/4	06/5	550
J/9	Hyundai Hawk	GI (St & Pa)	Sing	Prog	23/4	27/4	3396
J/10	Svetl Vlaho	Sugar(P)	Santo	Limond	12/4	30/4	2225
J/11	Kota Sanga	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	23/4	27/4	262
J/12	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	BSC	23/4	27/4	38
J/13	Orient Victory	Cont	Hald	PSL	25/4	28/4	244
CC/1	Kota Tampan	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	23/4	28/4	285
CC/2	Platinum Emerald	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	25/4	29/4	260

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Biraj	27/4	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Bodor	27/4	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Despina	28/4	—	Rainbow	Sugar	—
Power	28/4	Viza	Move	Slag	—
Xpress Nuptse	28/4	P. Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Nan Halki (J)	29/4	Yang	MTA	GI(Y. Maj)	—
Amali	29/4	Chin	USL	Clink	Uni/Scl
Oil Freedom	29/4	Sin	PSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve	29/4	Chin	Everest	Cont	Sing
Qc Star	29/4	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Blue Link	29/4	—	Nol	Cont	Sing
Kardaran Star	30/4	—	Rainbow	Sugar	—
Kota Berjaya	1/5	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Wuchang Hai	30/4	—	SSST	Wheat	Cig(Ni)
Dongtaifortune	1/5	—	Nol	Cont	Hald
Qc Honour	1/5	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	P. Kel

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside Port-12	—	—	—	—
Barge Swisoo-12	—	—	Mutual	RA (54)
Tug Gps Pioneer	—	—	Mutual	RA (84)
Dea Captain	—	—	IBSA	RA (274)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	26/4
Marcalbaria	Cont	Col	SWSL	26/4
Mellum Cont	Cont	Col	QCSL	26/4

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Noora Salt	Kand	Rainbow	20/4	—
Confinit-4	Rice(G)	Kaki	Cla	22/4
Al Kuwaitiah	HSD/Up-1	Kuwa	MSPL	26/4
Kyow Yadanar	GI(Y. Ma/Pu)	Yang	MTA	26/4

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Bumil Jaya	—	Visa	Unicom	10/11
Banglar Jyoti	—	—	BSC	RA (194)
Esso Faith	—	—	Move	RA (214)
C.S. Tyco Durable	Survey	Chenn	Mutual	25/4

Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Yasmina Gypsum	Krabi	Move	17/4	—
Gulsum Ana	Clink	Nant	NWSE	12/4
New Hope-1	Clink	Kohsi	Moval	17/4
Santa Barbara	Clink	Pena	Uniship	18/4
Maritime Songkhla	Clink	Indo	BSL	17/4
F. Jahan Clinic	Thai	Bral	ASL	18/4
Gold Friday	Clink	Cebu	18/4	19/4
Pran Express	Clink	Indo	Limond	21/4

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

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Company	FMV/L (Tk/No)	DSE			CSE			Financial Performance			Company	
		Closing	Price Chg (%) Pre Day	Turnover Share	Closing	Price Chg (%) Pre Day	Turnover Share	Last EPS	CDPS AGM (Tk) (%)			
BANK												
AB Bank Ltd.	100/5	294.25	-2.73	302.50	1324	285.00	6.56	305.00	30	10/11/04	3.46	Prime Textile Ltd.
City Bank Ltd.**	100/5	699.75	-1.03	676.73	1010	700.00	Not Traded	—	—	28/04/03	5.16	M. Hossain Ganu
ETC Bank Ltd.	100/5	308.50	-3.89	321.00	680	427.50	Not Traded	—	—	07/12/04	15.38	Chic Textile Ltd.
Islamic Bank BD Ltd.**	1000/1	474.75	-1.25	483.50	683	480.50	-1.34	487.50	78	17/09/04	162	Monro Fabrics Ltd.
National Bank Ltd.	100/20	407.25	-3.89	423.75	4349	407.25	-4.05	419.75	320	10/09/04	170	Salto Industries
Pubali Bank Ltd.**	100/5	256.25	-1.97	181.50	2390	1250.00	0.00	1250.00	5	17/04/05	33.6	H.R. Textile Ltd.
Rupali Bank Ltd.	100/10	542.50	-4.49	568.00	2900	545.25	-4.39	571.50	3220	—	—	Saffix Spinning & Textile Mills Ltd.
Uttara Bank Ltd.	100/5	1643.25	-3.34	1700.00	1490	1650.00	Not Traded	—	—	15/09/99	15.6	Metro Spinning
The Oriental Bank Ltd.	100/5	1500.00	0.00	1500.00	5	—	Not Listed	—	—	30/10/06	192.50	Beximco Synthetex
IDLC Ltd.**	100/20	851.50	-9.05	936.25	1480	960.00	Not Traded	—	—	09/11/04	-757	PHARMA
Eastern Bank Ltd.**	100/20	771.50	-2.00	787.25	120	746.50	Not Traded	—	—	26/05/04	75.5	Amber Pharma
United Leasing Co. Ltd.	100/20	943.00	-5.06	993.75	4740	—	Not Traded	—	—	30/06/04	70.00	The Ben Sani
Uttara Finance and Invs.	100/20	800.00	0.00	802.00	800	900.00	Not Traded	—	—	18/04/05	107.60	GlaxosK (BD) Ltd.
Al Arafa Islamic Bank	100/5	2688.75	-1.31	2724.50	190	2796.50	Not Traded	—	—	05/05/04	83.25	ACI Limited**
Prime Bank Ltd.**	100/5	531.25	-6.33	585.50	2375	563.00	-3.26	582.00	446	16/05/04	25.8	Renata Ltd.
Southeast Bank Ltd.	100/5	603.00	-2.66	619.50	2751	612.50	-3.02	624.25	3312	20/09/04	37.20	Reckitt Benckiser
Dhaka Bank Ltd.**	100/5	436.75	-7.12	491.25	5600	463.50	-7.62	501.75	2857	11/04/05	39.10	Therapeutics
Social Investment Bank	100/5	289.00	-1.66	284.50	80	—	Not Listed	—	—	02/06/04	31.0	Pharma Asia
Dutch Bangla Bank **	100/5	2532.75	-1.03	1553.50	350	1600.00	Not Traded	—	—	15/03/05	14.22	Kohinoor Chem
Midas Financing Ltd.**	100/5	302.25	-0.68	320.50	610	312.00	-5.45	330.00	50	01/10/04	18.5	Orion Industries
Mutual True Bank Ltd.	100/5	332.00	-4.49	353.75	8910	347.25	-3.54	360.00	2500	15/02/05	2.6	Rahman Chem Ltd.
First Lease Intl. Ltd.	100/20	402.25	-2.78	413.75	5000	402.00	-5.30	424.50	50	21/04/05	39.1	BCIL
One Bank Bank Ltd.**	100/5	371.25	-3.41	359.00	200	380.00	Not Traded	—	—	09/06/04	20.1	Beximco Infusion
Standard Bank Ltd.	100/5	298.50	-2.39	305.00	16480	295.75	-4.06	308.25	3400	07/06/04	11.2	Infusa Infusions
Bank Asia Ltd.	100/5	480.50	-3.56	498.25	3850	487.00	Not Traded	—	—	11/05/05	31.5	Orion Infusions
Commerce Bank Ltd.	100/5	341.25	-5.31	360.00	13712	—	Not Traded	—	—	14/05/05	11.2	Square Pharma
Export Import Bank	100/5	583.50	-2.51	598.50	34250	580.50	-2.31	594.25	4300	—	17.4	Imam Buton Ltd.
ALUMINUM												
ICB	100/5	194.00	-3.00	200.00	270	130.00	Not Traded	—	—	31/10/04	33.3	Perfume Chemica
7th ICB Mutual Fund	100/5	651.75	-1.99	660.00	40	—	Not Traded	—	—	31/10/04	41.2	Kyocera
6th ICB Mutual Fund	100/5	215.00	-1.36	219.00	40	350.00	Not Traded	—	—	31/10/04	21.0	Aluminum Chem
1st BSRIS Mutual Fund	100/5	212.00	-1.40	215.00	20	211.00	Not Traded	—	—	31/10/04	15.8	PAPER and
AIMS First	12/500	1.53	-4.38	1.60257500	1.53	-3.73	1.61220000	—	—	07/10/04	0.24	Padma Printers
ICB AMCI First Mutual Fund	100/5	164.75	-1.20	166.75	2400	165.50	-1.63	168.25	950	17/08/04	14.9	Shinobu Indusol
ENGINEERING												
Atari Automobiles Ltd.	100/5	463.50	-1.59	471.00	335	462.00	-3.45	478.50	10	21/12/04	61.7	MISCELLA
Apex Pipes Ltd.	100/5	50.75	-0.49	51.00	350	—	Not Traded	—	—	29/06/04	1.81	Shinobu Indusol
Apex Industries Ltd.**	100/5	418.00	-1.37	417.50	270	418.00	Not Traded	—	—	31/10/04	10.0	Apex Tannery Ltd.
Bangladesh Mills **	100/5	696.50	-4.39	728.50	54	756.00	Not Traded	—	—	24/06/04	27.7	Arani Ltd.
Eastern Cables Ltd.	100/5	178.00	-1.66	181.00	1826	181.25	-2.03	185.00	50	26/06/04	11.1	Bata Shoe Ltd.*
Singer Bangladesh **	100/5	1182.00	-2.27	1209.50	28	1190.00	-1.59	1209.25	5	09/05/05	41.3	GO Ball Pen
Atara Bangladesh Ltd.	100/5	293.20	-0.85	295.70	1706	—	Not Listed	—	—	23/12/04	19.0	Singapore Indusol
Quamrui Textiles Ltd.	100/5	43.25	-1.16	43.75	100	21.00	Not Traded	—	—	31/10/04	1.2	Umanias Glass
Osman Drycels Ltd.**	100/50	15.00	-1.32	15.20	26000	15.10	-2.58	15.50	1500	23/12/04	0.82	100 BEXIMCO Ltd.
National Tubes Ltd.**	100/10	1874.75	-4.23	1957.50	220	—	Not Listed	—	—	23/12/04	167.30	Heidelberg Cem.
Kay & Coe (BD) **	100/50	168.00	0.00	168.00	100	173.00	Not Traded	—	—	28/06/04	41.3	Apex Footwear
Wonder Lane Toys Ltd.	100/50	19.25	-2.33	19.75	1700	20.00	Not Traded	—	—	15/12/04	-2.4	Shinobu Indusol
Wonder Lane Toys Ltd.	100/50	24.40	0.41	24.30	21500	25.80	Not Traded	—	—	17/06/05	19.5	Meghna Cement
FOOD & ALLIED												
Alpha Tobacco Ltd.	100/50	12.00	-3.23	12.40	200	45.00	Not Traded	—	—	01/06/04	-9.3	12.5 Bengali Fine Cer.
Apex Foods Ltd.	100/5	468.25	-3.90	482.25	645	592.00	Not Traded	—	—	23/06/04	26.2	13.0 Standard Cement
Triper Industries Ltd.	100/5	117.00	-5.18	117.50	230	117.00	Not Traded	—	—	30/12/04	-10.0	14.0 Nitya Cement
TRIPER LTD.	100/5	117.50	-1.26	119.00	600	119.50	Not Traded	—	—	30/06/04	14.5	100 Nitya Cement
Tulip Dairy & Food Ltd.	100/10	23.00	0.00	23.00	10	—	Not Listed	—	—	28/06/01	-15	100 Rose Haven Ba.
Beximco Fisheries Ltd.	100/20	26.25	-6.27	27.25	4300	29.00	Not Traded	—	—	26/06/04	-0.7	100 Fu-wang Ceram.
Bengal Fisheries Ltd.	100/20	20.00	0.00	20.00	70	23.75	Not Traded	—	—	30/06/03	-1.4	100 Samata Leather
Shinobu Shrimp	100/50	18.25	-2.20	18.75	100	23.00	Not Traded	—	—	31/10/04	15.0	100 Shinobu Indusol
Reapit Inc (bd) Ltd.	100/500	1.00	-9.09	1.10	44000	1.10	-8.33	1.20	10000	24/12/02	0.12	100 Legacy Footwear
AMCL (Pram)**	100/10	478.75	-1.29	485.00	671	500.00	Not Traded	—	—	22/12/04	47.9	100 Miracle Industries
Dhaka Fisheries Ltd.	100/50	26.75	-0.93	27.00	300	22.00	Not Traded	—	—	23/12/04	1.87	100 Rapid Data Mar.
Shampur Sugar Mills Ltd.	100/100	8.00	-3.45	8.20	1000	—	Not Listed	—	—	24/08/05	-1.3	100 Shinobu Indusol
Shinobu Indusol	100/50	18.25	-2.20	18.75	100	23.00	Not Traded	—	—	30/12/04	15.0	100 Modern Cement
Gachhihata Aqua.	100/50	14.50	-3.33	15.00	1000	14.00	Not Traded	—	—	24/12/02	10.7	100 ISN Ltd.
Bionice Seafood	100/50	4.50	0.00	4.50	4000	—	Not Listed	—	—	29/09/04	0.52	100 Padma Cement
Fu-Wang Food Ltd.	100/50	14.50	-2.00	14.80	70500	15.00	Not Traded	—	—	30/12/04	13.1	100 BEXIMCO Outfite
First Hatchery Ltd.	100/50	4.60	0.00	4.60	7000	4.70	0.00	4.70	5500	23/12/04	0.36	100 In Tech Indusol
Shinobu Indusol	100/50	5.60	0.00	5.60	8500	5.80	Not Traded	—	—	24/12/02	1.18	100 Agni Systems L.
FUEL & POWER												
BCB (BD) Ltd.**	100/50	119.0	-0.83	120.10	8570	119.00	-1.15	121.30	300	25/01/05	8.91	50.0 INSURANCE
Padma Oil Co. Ltd.	100/50	332.70	0.00	332.70	50	325.00	Not Traded	—	—	24/03/04	15.4	50.0 Green Delta Ins.
Bangladesh Welding	100/50	5.00	0.00	5.00	23000	5.40	Not Traded	—	—	28/09/04	0.08	50.0 United Insurance
JUTE												
Northern Jute Ltd.	100/200	10.70	5.94	10.70	400	—	Not Listed	—	—	30/12/03	-1.2	50.0 Peoples Insurance
Sonali Ansh Ltd.	100/50	318.00	0.00	318.00	5	—	Not Listed	—	—	30/12/04	-9.0	50.0 Eastern Insurance
Saleh Carpet Ltd.	100/200	0.90	0.00	0.90	3600	—	Not Listed	—	—	28/09/02	-2.1	50.0 Phoenix Insurance
TEXTILE												
Ashraf Textile Ltd.	100/50	5.50	0.00	5.50	700	6.00	Not Traded	—	—	30/12/04	-7.1	2.50 Central Insurance
Saham Textile Ltd.	100/5	66.50	0.76	66.00	20	70.00	Not Traded	—	—	23/12/04	7.21	7.00 Rupali Insurance
Padma Textile Mills Ltd.	100/200	29.80	-3.56	30.90	370569	30.20	-2.89	31.10	348000	23/06/04	1.52	10.0 National Life Ins.
Apex Spinning Mills Ltd.	100/200	268.75	-0.92	271.25	680	292.00	Not Traded	—	—	33/09/04	44.9	15.0 Apex Spinning
Shinobu Indusol	100/50	18.25	-2.20	18.75	100	23.00	Not Traded	—	—	16/02/04	15.0	10.0 Purihi Gen. Ins.
Mita Textiles Ltd.	100/20	34.00	-2.16	34.75	600	33.00	Not Traded	—	—	13/04/05	0.24	10.0 Delta Life Insurance
Delta Spinners Ltd.	100/20	80.25	0.00	80.25	860	80.00	Not Traded	—	—	30/12/03	7.28	10.0 Pragati Gen. Ins.
Apex Weaving & Finis.	100/50	45.00	-2.50	49.75	300	100.00	Not Traded	—	—	11/12/04	-1.9	10.0 Sandhani Life Ins.
Dandy Dyeing Ltd.	100/50	45.00	-2.17	46.00	100	100.00	Not Traded	—	—	11/09/04	2.1	10.0 Mercantile Insurance
Sonali Ansh Ltd.	100/50	318.00	0.00	318.00	5	80.00	Not Traded	—	—	18/08/05	8.24	7.00 Mifalco Insurance
Beximco Textiles Ltd.	100/50	44.20	-2.73	45.75	1300	47.00	Not Traded	—	—	28/06/04	-4.0	7.00 Agrani Insurance
Beximco Denims Ltd.	100/50	65.00	0.00	65.00	500	70.00	Not Traded	—	—	28/06/04	-4.5	7.00 Global Insurance