

# EU warns of quotas in textile standoff with China

AFP, Brussels

The European Union's executive arm called Monday for urgent talks with China on a surge in textile imports, warning that otherwise it will propose slapping quotas on two key types of textile imports.

EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson, launching an emergency procedure allowed under World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, called for consultations with Beijing on imports of T-shirts and flax yarn.

The EU will impose "temporary" and "reasonable" limits on

imports of the two sectors if China does not take voluntary action to rein in its booming exports by the end of a 90-day period, Mandelson said.

"In view of the seriousness of market disruption in these categories, formal consultations need to begin immediately," said commission in a statement.

The talks "will involve urgent discussions between China and the EU on how best to limit growth in Chinese exports in these categories."

"Under WTO rules, incorporated into Chinas accession protocol to the WTO, China is

expected to use this period of consultation to propose means to manage the surge in its exports.

"Only if China does not take effective action will the Commission propose temporary limits on the growth of Chinese exports in the categories concerned in 2005," it added.

The EU commission launched a probe into nine textile and garment categories from China last month after compiling evidence that exports surged by as much as 534 percent after a 31-year-old global quota system had ended in January.

But some EU textile producers

have for weeks been urging the EU to adopt emergency procedures, which would fast-forward the process to a much more serious formal consultation period.

Tuesday's new Brussels initiative comes after Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao had promised last week more measures to curb rampant growth in textile exports to the 25-nation EU.

It also comes after the United States re-imposed quotas last week on Chinese-made cotton knit shirts and blouses, cotton trousers, and cotton and man-made fibre underwear, in order to curb a flood of imports.



PHOTO: GP  
Officials of djuice and Pizza Hut pose for photographs after signing an agreement on behalf of their organisations in Dhaka recently for a strategic partnership between the two brands.



PHOTO: CITYCELL  
Officials of Gulshan Spinning Mills Ltd, Bangladesh and Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited (PBTL), the owning company of mobile operator CityCell, exchange documents after signing a corporate deal in Dhaka recently.

## India pledges reforms to attract foreign investment

AFP, New Delhi

Indian Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram pledged comprehensive financial sector reforms on Tuesday to attract badly-needed foreign investment to tackle a growing trade deficit.

Chidambaram told business leaders that the government planned to unveil a comprehensive policy for the banking and financial services sector by September.

"The first thing we have to do is complete financial sector reforms. A comprehensive policy -- relating to banking, insurance, pensions and capital markets -- should be ready by the first half of this fiscal so that all uncertainties are put to rest," he told a the meeting organized by the Confederation of Indian Industry.

The Congress-led government, which relies on the communists for support in parliament, recently announced plans to scrap the 10 percent ceiling on voting rights in private banks which would allow foreign banks greater board representation.



PHOTO: BENCHMARK  
Robbie Baird, area general manager (Central Asia, South Asia, Middle East and Africa) of British Airways, and Osman Morad, chief executive officer of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, jointly inaugurate a new booth of the bank in Gulshan on Monday for collecting ticket fares of the airline.



PHOTO: PRIME FINANCE  
Muhammed Aziz Khan, chairman and managing director of Summit Power Ltd, and Tapan K Podder, managing director of Prime Finance & Investment Ltd, sign an issue management agreement on behalf of their companies recently in Dhaka for the forthcoming initial public offering (IPO) of Summit Power.

## CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (May 17, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank						
Sell			Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
64.1300	64.1600	USD	63.1250	63.1040	63.0619	
81.8748	81.9131	EUR	78.7989	78.7727	78.7201	
118.5892	118.6447	GBP	115.1211	115.0827	115.0059	
49.3416	49.3647	AUD	47.0281	47.0124	46.9811	
0.6073	0.6076	JPY	0.5852	0.5851	0.5847	
53.0482	53.0730	CHF	51.0968	51.0798	51.0457	
9.1495	9.1538	SEK	8.1894	8.1867	8.1812	
50.9737	50.9975	CAD	49.2472	49.2307	49.1979	
8.2303	8.2342	HKD	8.0851	8.0824	8.0770	
39.1227	39.1410	SGD	37.9539	37.9413	37.9160	
17.6027	17.6109	AED	17.0479	17.0422	17.0309	
17.2379	17.2459	SAR	16.7002	16.6946	16.6835	
11.3585	11.3638	DKK	10.2759	10.2725	10.2656	
216.1456	216.2490	KWD	215.4090	215.3395	215.2006	
Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar						
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.41	59.5	99.58	39.825	6.4104	0.7592	3.80
Local Interbank FX Trading			Tuesday. Dollar ended almost unchanged			
Local interbank FX market was active on			against Bangladeshi taka.			

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 17/5/2005							
Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Karadaran Star	Sugar	Sing	Rainbow	30/4	20/5	692
J/2	C. Harmony	Clink	Sing	Mbl	8/5	18/5	2240
J/3	Paulijiang	Gl/Salt	Ind	Mutual	11/5	19/5	918
J/4	Chip Sam	Sugar	Durb	Otl	7/5	18/5	992
J/5	Despina	Sugar	Darb	Rainbow	28/4	18/5	1640
J/6	Asean Express	Fert/S. Ash	Chin	Unique	13/5	22/5	2045
J/7	Tate J	Gl(Ht. Stl)	Ind	Rsa	10/5	17/5	4339
J/8	Ikan Selar	Rice(G)	Japan	Ascl	11/5	19/5	--
J/10	Kota Raja	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	16/5	20/5	
J/11	Blue Link	Cont	Sing	Nol	15/5	19/5	218
J/12	QC Star	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	14/5	18/5	287
J/13	Oel Freedom	Cont	Sing	Pssl	13/5	17/5	90

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Marisa Green	17/5	P. Kel	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Great Mary	19/5	Braz	Usl	Sugar	-
Pagan	18/5	Yang	Mta	Rice	450 Log
Leopard	18/5	Mumb	Everett	Spl. Cargo	
Oel Enterprise	18/5	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya	18/5	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Banga Barta	19/5	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Xpress Manaslu	19/5	P. Kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Vien Dong-2	19/5	Sin	Prog	Gl(St & Pa)	--
Banga Borti	19/5	Sin	Bdship	Cont	Pkl/Sing
Budi Teguh	19/5	Sing	Cosco	Cont	Cal/Hai
Kota Naga	20/5	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Sing/Mgl

### Tanker due

Salamat-3	18/5	Hald	Nishat	Bitumen
Palm Chem	19/5	P. Kel	Usl	Cpo(RM/4)
Seal	18/5	Bumai	Mtcl	Cpo(RM/8)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Gulg Bison	--	--	Ibsa	R/A (14/5)

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready					
QC Honour	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	16/5	
Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	17/5	

### Vessels not ready

Dae Gak Bong	Sugar	Bang	Rainbow	4/5
Amar	Sugar	Bang	Unicom	7/5
John-P	Gr. Slag	Sing	Saraf	11/5
Ocean Pride	C. Clink	Kant	Psai	11/5
Banglar Maya	Sugar	Braz	Mbl	14/5

### Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Burni Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	Bsc	R/A(17/5)

### Vessels not entering

Noora	Salt	Kand	Rainbow	20/4
Golden Star	Mop(P)	Russ	Bsl	10/5
Eleonora	Sugar	Sant	Rainbow	8/5
Global Prestige	Dap(P)	Sing	Bsl	11/5
Manjur Baru	Scraping	Indo	Sigma	3/5
Apnoia	Scraping	Hald	Rsship	16/5

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

## STOCK