

China trade meeting aims to energise WTO negotiations

AFP, Geneva

A group of key World Trade Organisation members is set to meet in China this week, aiming to energise negotiations on liberalising global commerce which have stumbled amid north-south splits over agriculture.

The goal at the July 12-13 meeting in Dalian is to sketch out an accord ahead of a WTO summit in Hong Kong in December, in order to complete the negotiations in 2006.

It will be China's highest-level WTO meeting since it joined the world body in 2001.

Some 32 trade ministers are set

to take part, out of the WTO's full membership of 148.

"The Dalian meeting is going to be very important in setting the tone for our work over the next few months and for increasing the chances of success in Hong Kong," said Taiwan's trade ambassador Lin Yi-fu.

The Doha Round of talks, launched in the Qatari capital in 2001, aims to expand free trade in a way that benefits poor nations.

Developing countries are pushing for an end to farm subsidies in rich countries, which they say have ruined their agricultural sector.

Industrialised nations have been unwilling to budge without conces-

sions in other areas, particularly services and trade in goods.

There have also been spats among wealthy nations with differing commercial interests, notably the European Union and leading farm traders such as Australia.

Members faced their biggest crisis in 2003, as the Cancun summit in Mexico collapsed amid confrontation between rich and poor.

WTO members cannot afford a similar bust-up in Hong Kong, and must use every opportunity to settle their differences fast, Lin said.

"A failure in Hong Kong would be a disaster not only for the Doha Round but also for the entire multi-

lateral system," he told AFP.

"It would call into question the commitment of members to liberalisation and to the WTO as a realistic negotiating forum."

Last year, members reached an interim deal which focused on the farm trade, suggesting ways to slash tariffs and other barriers to free commerce, such as state help for exporters.

But they left the technical fine-tuning to meetings stretching into this year at the WTO's Geneva base.



PHOTO: FEDEX

Bashir AK Chowdhury, executive director of Bangladesh Express, receives regional FedEx awards -- "Outstanding Sales Performance" and "Customs Clearance" -- at the recently concluded Global Services Participant conference held in Turkey.



PHOTO: UCBL

Hamidul Huq, managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL), addresses the inaugural session of a daylong workshop on 'Credit Policy and Process Manual' in Dhaka recently. Niaz Habib, deputy managing director, MS Kamaluddin, executive vice president of the bank, among others, were present at the function.



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Waqar Ahmed Kazi, director (Finance) of Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, and Tanvir Ibrahim, head (Corporate Sales) of GrameenPhone Ltd, sign an agreement on behalf of their organisations in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Unilever has become a corporate client of GP. Other senior officials from both the sides were also present.



PHOTO: BCBL

Chairman of Bangladesh Commerce Bank Ltd (BCBL) ATM Alamgir speaks at the half-yearly branch managers' conference of the bank in Dhaka on Thursday. BCBL Managing Director Md Salehuddin Quasem, Director Mukul Ahmed and Executive Vice President Md Enayet Ullah were also present at the meet.

Bangladesh Express wins FedEx awards

Bangladesh Express Co Ltd, the licensee of Federal Express, a subsidiary of FedEx Corporation, has won two prestigious regional FedEx awards.

The awards namely "Outstanding Sales Performance" and "Customs Clearance" have recently been awarded to Bangladesh Express at the Global Services Participants (GSPs) conference held in Turkey, says a press release.

Bashir AK Chowdhury, executive director of Bangladesh Express, received the awards on behalf of his organisation.

Bangladesh Express was chosen from 29 GSPs in the Middle East, Indian subcontinent and Africa region.

Unilever now GP corporate client

Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, a leading manufacturer and distributor of many toiletries and household products, has become a corporate client of GrameenPhone Ltd.

An agreement to this effect was signed recently between the two organisations in Dhaka, says a press release.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (July 10, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell		Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
65.7700	65.8000	USD	64.6000	64.5785	64.5354
79.8185	79.8549	EUR	76.3314	76.3059	76.2550
115.3408	115.3935	GBP	111.2218	111.1847	111.1106
49.9786	50.0014	AUD	47.0223	47.0067	46.9753
0.5933	0.5935	JPY	0.5709	0.5707	0.5703
51.0003	51.0236	CHF	49.2528	49.2364	49.2036
8.3183	8.3221	SEK	7.7535	7.7509	7.7458
54.4228	54.4477	CAD	52.4990	52.4815	52.4465
8.4709	8.4748	HKD	8.3006	8.2978	8.2923
39.0489	39.0667	SGD	37.8154	37.8028	37.7776
18.0533	18.0615	AED	17.4467	17.4409	17.4293
17.6782	17.6863	SAR	17.0899	17.0843	17.0729
11.0005	11.0056	DKK	9.9771	9.9738	9.9672
221.7149	221.8183	KWD	220.2717	220.2717	220.2717

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.59	59.59	100.12	42.020	6.5818	0.7238	3.80

Local interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was subdued on Sunday as the international market was closed. Demand for dollar continued to remain

high in the market.

Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate was unchanged and ranged between 4.00 and 5.00 per cent.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 10/7/2005

Berth No.	Name of Cargo vessels	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Ocean Pride	GI(Log)	Yang	Psal	1/7	12/7 912
J/2	Cec Copenhagen	Idle	T. Pala	Pssl	27/6	--
J/3	Banglar Kallol	Sugar	C. Town	Mutual	14/6	13/7 1595
J/4	Prestigious	Sugar	Santos	Mutual	1/6	17/7 1299
J/5	Oel Freedom	Cont	Sing	Pssl	7/7	12/7 172
J/6	Mongla	GI(Log)	Yang	Mta	6/7	-- 629
J/7	Coastal Express-1	Cont	Hald	Bsca	9/7	11/7 47
J/8	Mandalay	Cont	Chenn	Pml	6/7	10/7 --
J/9	Xiang Jiang	GI	Inch	Cosco	8/7	12/7 2425
J/10	Brave Royal	C. Clink	Krabi	Brsi	28/6	11/7 2203

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Kapitan Grishin	10/7	Sing	Ssil	Cont	Col
Mellum	10/7	Sin	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Darya Taal	11/7	Aust	Mutual	Wheat(P)	--
Evgenia	12/7	Russ	Angelic	Mop(Fert)	--
Banga Lanka	12/7	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Bodor	13/7	P. Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Bijoy	13/7	Col	Bandhi	Cont	Col
Kota Cahaya	13/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Banga Barta	14/7	Col	Bandhi	Cont	Col
Xpress Nuptse	14/7	P. Kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Banga Borat	14/7	--	Bdship	Cont	Tanj

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Probo Emu	10/7	Hald	Josl	Naptha(Doj/6)	--
Al Sabyah	12/6	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/Sko	--
Asia Lion	13/7	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/Up-1	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Thistle	Crude Oil	Jebel	Owsl	26/6
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/A (30/6)
Burru Tide	--	--	Ibsa	R/A (5/7)
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/A

Outside port limit

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Thistle	Crude Oil	Jebel	Owsl	26/6
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/A (30/6)
Burru Tide	--	--	Ibsa	R/A (5/7)
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/A

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Orient Independence	Cont	Hald	Psal	9/7
Blue Link	Cont	Sing	Nol	9/7
Dawei	Cont	Sing	Pml	9/7
QC Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	9/7
Platinam Emerald	Cont	Col	Everbest	10/7

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sarim	Sugar	Sant	Litmond	25/6
Gold Friday	Clink	Krabi	Bsl	21/6
World Group Star	GI(St. Bil)	P. Side	Owsl	6/7
Jin Qiang	GI(W/P)	Vanc	Usl	7/7
Atol	Sugar	Darb	Mutual	9/7

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicorn	10/11

Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
C. Harmony	C. Clink	Kaki	Move	20/6
Excellent	C. Clink	Krabi	Asll	23/6
Silver Sen	C. Clink	Sing	Move	2/7
Power	Gr. Slag	Visa	Saraf	30/6
Pigi	Gtsp(Fert)	Tunj	Ssst	R/A (4/7)

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

STOCK