EU, US fail on subsidies deal

AFP, *Paris*

The United States and the European Union, the world's two top providers of financial aid to their farmers, on Thursday failed to reach agreement on cutting the subsidies.

Meeting in Paris within the framework of the World Trade Organisation, the two groupings remained in deadlock, with the Europeans demanding that the Americans cut their direct farm subsidies, and the latter insisting that the EU should first lower its customs tariffs.

Both sides nevertheless said they remained committed to a deal.

Speaking after talks with EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson, EU agricultural commissioner Mariann Fischer Boel, and US agriculture secretary Mike Johanns, US Trade Representative Rob Portman said the sides were "firmly committed" to make progress on agriculture subsidies.

He said they had made progress toward an eventual agreement on agriculture at Thursday's talks in Paris between the US, EU, Brazil and India.

The meeting of the four trade powers was aimed at bridging differences, notably over farm subsidies, which have hampered efforts to keep almost four years of World Trade Organisation negotiations on track.

"We come closer every time we talk," Portman said.

Mandelson said the EU was committed to building on a July 2004 framework agreement on agriculture, and would eventually make proposals for wide-ranging tariff reductions.

"We are fully committed... to tabling proposals in due course from which substantial additional market access will flow. Our approach will not leave a single tariff line or product untouched," he said.

The 148 nations in the WTO are facing a crucial summit in Hong Kong in December that is meant to produce at least a basic accord on cutting customs duties, subsidies and other barriers to trade.

PHOTO: CONCORD COMMUNICATION CO

Shahriar Kamal, director of Concord Group, and Mehbub Chowdhury, chief commercial officer of Banglalink, shake hands after signing an agreement on Wednesday. Under the deal, the mobile phone operator will host different cultural events at Fantasy Kingdom, a theme park of Concord, and Fantasy Kingdom will arrange promotional programmes for Banglalink subscribers.

PHOTO: UCBL

Niaz Habib, deputy managing director of United Commercial Bank Ltd (UCBL), poses for photographs at the concluding session of a training course on "Prevention of Money Laundering" organised by the bank recently in Dhaka. Other senior officials are also seen.

Africa takes centre stage at world oil congress

AFP, *Johannesburg*

Key players in the oil world gather in South Africa next week for a conference that will highlight the emerging clout of oil-producing nations in Africa, where petrodollars could help fight poverty.

The five-day World Petroleum Congress opening on Sunday is a triennial affair bringing together oil executives, governments and concerned groups to take stock of challenges facing the oil and gas industry.

"It's happening on African soil for the very first time in the 72-year history of the World Petroleum Council," says Zella Fuphe, a member of the organising committee of the congress.

"What this means is that Africa is becoming a factor on the world energy stage," said Fuphe, managing director of Worldwide African Investment Holdings, an energy-focused investment company based in Johannesburg.

While the gathering in Johannesburg will touch on the surge in oil prices and look at trends and outlooks, it will also tackle oil revenue transparency and HIV/AIDS, seen as pressing issues for Africa as it muscles its way into world markets.

"With all this money that is being generated, especially now with oil prices where they are, people need to see running water, sanitation, electricity, roads -- all those things that are basic," said Fuphe.

Weekly Currency Roundup

Sept 18-Sept 22, 2005

Local FX Market

Demand for US dollar remained steady in the market throughout the week.

Money Market

In the Treasury bill auction held on Sunday, bid for BDT 13,835.00 million was accepted, compared with total of BDT 11,172.00 million in the previous week's bid. Only 28-day and 364-day bid was accepted in the last bid. Weighted average yield increased slightly.

Call money rate was flat this week. Call money rate ranged between 5.00 and 5.50 percent throughout the week.

International FX Market

The euro fell more than one percent to a 7-week low against the dollar on Monday after elections in Germany failed to provide an outright majority, dimming the reform for Europe's biggest economy. The US dollar also got a boost against other majors from the likelihood of a 25 basis points rate hike by the Federal Reserve on Tuesday, despite economic damage to the US Gulf coast from last month's Hurricane Katrina. North Korea's announcement on Monday that it would give up nuclear weapons gave further aid to the US currency. The euro also unwound some of last week's gains on the yen, dipping almost 0.9 percent to a low of 135 yen.

The dollar slid against the euro during the middle of the week, despite a rise in US official interest rates, as investors feared a rapidly strengthening hurricane threatening the US Gulf Coast could wreak as much damage as Hurricane Katrina. The US currency's inability to keep its upward momentum, after the Federal Reserve raised interest rates on Tuesday and left the door open for further increase also prompted traders to take profits on the dollar. Hurricane Rita was expected to develop into a Category 4 storm on Wednesday, the same classification as Hurricane Katrina. Oil prices bounced back above $67 a barrel on Wednesday. The dollar lost 0.7 percent against Swiss francs and shed 0.35 percent versus yen after touching a six-week low of 112.03 yen earlier. Sterling held firm against the dollar but slipped against the euro before the minutes of Bank of England's Sept 7-8 monetary policy meeting due for release.

The dollar struggled in tight ranges on Thursday as investors waited to see the impact of Hurricane Rita, which was upgraded to a Category 5 storm, a notch above Hurricane Katrina, making the latest hurricane one of the most intense storms on record. At 0800 GMT the dollar traded steady on the day against euro and 0.1 percent down on the day versus yen. Traders said the hurricane could fracture already strained US oil, producing capacity, boosting press and choking consumer spending.

- Standard Chartered Bank

PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

SH Aslam Habib, head of Finance & Resources of Delta Brac Housing (DBH), a private housing finance institution, and Tanvir Ibrahim, head of Corporate Sales of GrameenPhone Ltd, pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony recently in Dhaka. Under the deal, DBH has become a corporate client of the mobile phone operator.

PHOTO: AB BANK

The Managers' Conference-2005 of Arab Bangladesh Bank Ltd was held recently in Dhaka. President and Managing Director of the bank Kaiser A Chowdhury inaugurated the conference.

ADB approves billion dollar transport loans to China

AFP, *Manila*

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) said Friday it has approved two loans totalling one billion dollars to build roads and rail systems in China's western provinces.

A 600 million-dollar loan would support an expressway project in Sichuan province that would link the growth centers of Chengdu, the provincial capital, and Kunming in nearby Yunnan province.

The project would also upgrade of local roads, the Philippines-based lender said in a statement.

Meanwhile, a 400 million-dollar loan would help finance a project to build a 460-kilometer (285-mile) railway line from Zhengzhou in Henan province to Xi'an in Shaanxi province.

The line would serve as the main corridor linking major cities and ports in the east to the west, and eventually help link China to central Asia and Europe, it added.

"A road network strategy that integrates expressways with local roads will help ensure that the benefits derived from the expressway filter down to the poor," Makoto Ojiro, an ADB project economist, said of the Sichuan road project.

"Better transport links are needed to improve economic efficiency, foster domestic and international trade, facilitate inter-regional economic integration, and promote efficient economic growth, thereby reducing poverty."

US, EU clear way for next step in aircraft dispute at WTO

AFP, *Geneva*

The United States and European Union cleared the way on Friday for the next step in their World Trade Organisation battle over billions of dollars in public aid for aircraft makers Boeing and Airbus.

At a meeting of the WTO's Dispute Settlement Body, officials said, both sides agreed to appoint a diplomatic "facilitator" who will gather information aimed at helping the global trade referee rule on the tussle between the titans.

Each side argues that the other's aid has provided an unfair advantage in the global aircraft market, breaching the rules of global commerce, which are set by the 148-nation WTO.

The job of the diplomat, Mexico's Mateo Diego-Fernandez, is to collect data including on the amount of aid, the price of aircraft produced with such support, the prices charged by other companies not tied to the dispute, and changes in Airbus and Boeing's market share.

The information is meant to help the WTO panel determine whether aid to Boeing and Airbus has caused "serious prejudice" in the global aircraft market.

The decision to use a facilitator is unusual -- Diego-Fernandez is only the third since the WTO's creation in 1995 -- and shows how complex the aircraft spat is.

In July, the trading nations in the WTO agreed to set up a panel to rule on the two separate disputes.

However, the panel is yet to start work -- its members have not been appointed, although this is not linked to any opposition from the EU or US.

At the time, the EU said it wanted to hold off appointing a facilitator until it was clear about the ground rules under which he would operate, although the US gave an immediate green light.

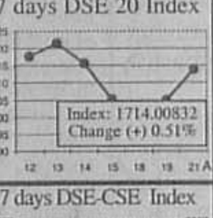
STOCK

TRADED ISSUES IN THE WEEK

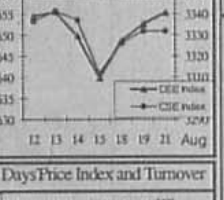
Weekly Market - September 18 - 22, 2005

Indicators	DSE	CSE
General / All Share Price Index	1,653.29639	3,332.1341
Change in Price Index	0.94391%	0.609566%
Total Turnover (Taka)	578,748,895.30	151,278,402.75
Total Turnover (Volume)	9,814,652	5,793,590
Number of Contract	22,319	7,761
Total Traded Issues	194	82
No. of Issue Gain (Avg. Price Basis)	73	36
No. of Issue Loss (Avg. Price Basis)	112	41
No. of Unchanged Issue (Avg. P. Basis)	9	5
Market Cap. (Taka)	209,336,030,721	205,030,477,283
Market Cap. (US$)	3,560,396,411	3,505,669,633
Total No. of Listed Securities	260	202
Total No. of Listed Companies	242	187
Total No. of Listed Mutual Fund	13	13
Total No. of Listed Debenture	5	2
Total No. of Share & Debenture	525,329,810	414,612,267
Total Issued Capital	52,398,934,360	47,657,260,990
Price Earning Ratio	14.09	14.17
Earning Per Share (%)	31.27	30.29

7 days DSE 20 Index



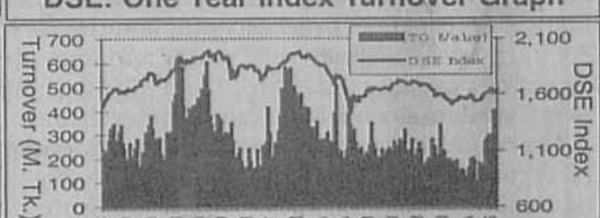
7 days DSE-CSE Index



DSE : Last 30 Days Price Index and Turnover

CSE: Last 30 Days Price Index and Turnover

DSE: One Year Index Turnover Graph



CSE: One Year Index Turnover Graph

Turnover Leaders

Dhaka Stock Exchange

Company	Vol. (share)	Value ('000Tk.)	% Of Total
Beximco Pharma**	616,042	47,281	8.10
Meghna Life Ins.**	72,150	39,376	6.75
Lafarge Surma Cement**	64,600	29,100	4.99
Grameen M F One**	1,289,500	27,260	4.68
Popular Life Insurance**	41,300	27,322	4.68
Southeast Bank Ltd.**	47,190	24,600	4.23
Dhaka Bank Ltd.**	45,574	22,955	3.93
Uttara Bank Ltd.	9,616	22,941	3.93
Export Import Bank**	44,457	22,553	3.86
Prime Bank Ltd.**	32,727	22,288	3.82

Chittagong Stock Exchange

Company	Vol. (share)	Value ('000Tk.)	% Of Total
Beximco Pharma**	293,253	22,522	14.78
Lafarge Surma Cement**	39,400	17,714	11.62
Daffodil Computers Ltd.**	1,104,500	15,308	10.04
Grameen M F One**	694,752	14,763	9.69
Padma Textile Mills Ltd.	342,800	8,745	5.74
Southeast Bank Ltd.**	16,002	8,347	5.48
Miracle Industries Ltd.	518,500	8,177	5.36
Rupali Bank Ltd.	14,990	7,891	5.18
Dhaka Bank Ltd.**	8,735	4,421	2.90
Standard Bank Ltd.**	11,711	3,723	2.44

Capital Gainers

Dhaka Stock Exchange

Company	Price (+/-) %	Turnover ('000 Tk.)
Popular Life Insurance**	11.37	27,322.4
Perfume Chemical	10.54	25.20
Sandhani Life Insurance**	10.00	133.10
Safko Spinning Mills	8.46	11.39
Sonali Ansh Ltd.	6.91	7.35

Chittagong Stock Exchange

Company	Price (+/-) %	Turnover ('000 Tk.)
Popular Life Insurance**	12.74	289.80
Hakkani Pulp & Paper	10.00	27.50
Daffodil Computers Ltd.**	8.62	15308.37
People's Leasing**	6.36	337.93
Eastern Cables Ltd.	6.24	327.94

Capital Losers

Dhaka Stock Exchange

Company	Price (+/-) %	Turnover ('000 Tk.)
BSC	-18.74	21.00
AIMS First**	-12.96	5,287.50
Raspit Inc (bd) Ltd.	-11.11	0.40
Bangla Process	-9.83	3.92
Padma Printers Ltd.	-9.38	2.90

Chittagong Stock Exchange

Company	Price (+/-) %	Turnover ('000 Tk.)
AIMS First**	-15.88	2,935.08
Raspit Inc (bd) Ltd.	-11.11	5.60
Bank Asia Ltd.	-10.54	455.40
Fahad Industries Ltd.	-8.25	5.51
Reckitt Benckiser (Bd) **	-7.28	16.82

Book Closer/AGM/Dividend/IPO

Company	Closer From	Closer to	Div./B/R	AGM/ EGM	Date	Venue, Time
Islami Bank BD Ltd.**	15-Aug		1B:5	AGM	16-Sep	Bangladesh-China FCC 9am
Sandhani Life Insurance**	25-Aug		16%B	AGM	14-Sep	LGED Bhaban,Agargaon,Dhk 10:30am
Purabi Gen. Insurance	31-Aug	14-Sep	10.00%	AGM	14-Sep	LGED Bhaban,Agargaon,Dhk 12:30pm
National Bank Ltd.**	17-Aug		1B:5	AGM	7-Sep	BDR Darbar Hall, Peelkhana 11am
Delta Life Insurance	21-Jul	27-Jul	30%, 1B:5	AGM	Postpond	
AB Bank Ltd.	10-Nov	30-Nov	1B:20	AGM	30-Nov	BDR Darbar Hall, Pilkhana 2:30pm
Federal Insurance	19-Aug	7-Sep	1B:10	AGM	7-Sep	BIAM Audi, 63 New Eskaton 11am
Islamic Finance and Investment Ltd.			IPO subscription date		September 25 - 29, 2005.	
Progressive Life Insurance Co. Ltd.			IPO subscription date		October 08 - 12, 2005.	
Bionic Seafood	1-Sep	29-Sep		AGM	29-Sep	Royal Hotel,K.D.Avenue 10:30am
The Oriental Bank Ltd.	1-Sep	15-Sep		AGM	10-Oct	BDR Darbar Hall, Dhaka 3pm
Square Pharma**	20-Aug		77%, 15%B	AGM	21-Sep	Darbar Hall, BDR, Pilkhana 11:30am
Apex Spinning Mills Ltd.	1-Sep	22-Sep	18.00%	AGM	22-Sep	Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1 8:30am
Apex Foods Ltd.	1-Sep	22-Sep	15.00%	AGM	22-Sep	Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1 11:30
Dandy Dyeing Ltd.	15-Aug	14-Sep		AGM	14-Sep	ICAB Bhaban, Kawranbazar 11:30am
Stylecraft Ltd.	2-Sep	22-Sep	25.00%	AGM	22-Sep	BIAM, 63, New Eskaton 7pm
Legacy Footwear Ltd.	7-Sep	29-Sep	5.00%	AGM	29-Sep	Fac. Pre. Gazipur 11:30
Apex Tannery Ltd.	17-Sep	16-Oct	13.00%	AGM	16-Oct	Shooting Complex, Gulshan-1 11am
AIMS First	18-Sep		18.00%			
UCBL**	25-Sep		9B:10	AGM	3-Oct	BDR Darbar Hall, Peelkhana 11am

Non Traded Issues