

WTO members regroup after failed effort to kickstart talks

AFP, Geneva

World Trade Organisation members regrouped Tuesday at the body's headquarters, a day after the US and EU won little support for subsidy-cutting plans aimed at kick-starting talks on liberalising international commerce.

A gathering of trading nations in Zurich Monday did little to break the enduring deadlock in the WTO's four-year-old Doha Round negotiations.

Officials have warned that failure in meetings this week could jeopardise the WTO's crucial summit in Hong Kong, which is meant to draft a

multilateral accord cutting subsidies, customs duties and other barriers to world trade.

With the summit just over 60 days away, the 148 trading nations in the WTO are desperate to avoid a replay of their 2003 bust-up at a summit in Cancun, Mexico, which mired their talks for more than a year.

At the Zurich talks, which brought together around 15 WTO members, a proposal by US Trade Representative Rob Portman received an angry reception from Japan, and was met with caution by developing countries including India and Brazil.

Japan rejected the US plan on

grounds that it would not go far enough in reducing Washington's assistance to its agricultural sector.

Tokyo said it would come up with an alternative proposal later this week in Geneva, where the WTO is holding more talks.

Portman's plan calls for a 60 percent cut in the subsidies Washington is allowed to pay its farmers under WTO rules and an 83 percent reduction by the European Union and Japan. The EU and Japanese cuts should be higher because they are currently allowed more payouts, he argued.

The variant proposed by the EU

foresees a 70 percent reduction, plus a cut of up to 60 percent in Brussels' customs duties on farm goods, another bone of contention.

But Japanese Agriculture Minister Mineichi Iwanaga told reporters: "Japan is not able to accept the US proposal on domestic support as a basis for further discussion because the extent of the reduction the US is willing to make on its own domestic support is insufficient, in our view."

Japan is among countries seeking to protect their farmers from far-reaching liberalisation in the WTO talks.



Habibur Rahman Mollah, general manager (Finance and Accounts) of Transcom Electronics Limited, and Saeed Ahmed, general manager (HR and Administration) of Ruby Cement, Scan Cement, sign an agreement on behalf of their companies on Monday in Dhaka. Under the agreement, Ruby Cement, Scan Cement became a corporate partner of Transcom Electronics.



MA Mannan, chairman and managing director of Butterfly Marketing Ltd, hands over documents of a fridge to Abdul Manu, a cloth merchant in Dhaka recently. Manu is the first winner of 100 percent discount of special offer by LG-Butterfly to mark the Eid-ul-Fitr.



Mohammed Yakub, director of Asian Group, and Tanvir Ibrahim, head of corporate sales of GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, sign an agreement on behalf of their respective sides recently. Under the deal, Asian Group has become a corporate client of GP.

Transcom Electronics signs deal with Ruby Cement, Scan Cement

A corporate agreement titled 'EzeeBuy' was signed between Transcom Electronics Limited and Ruby Cement, Scan Cement on Monday in Dhaka.

This agreement will enable the Ruby Cement, Scan Cement employees to buy Philips, Whirlpool, Changhong, and Transtec brands products through a special easy purchase scheme, says a press release.

Habibur Rahman Mollah, general manager (Finance and Accounts) of Transcom Electronics Limited, and Saeed Ahmed, general manager (HR and Administration) of Ruby Cement, Scan Cement, signed the agreement on behalf of their companies.

Among others, GM (HR and Admin) Shahriar A Chowdhury, Jafrul Alam Khan, national sales manager (retail), and Rawnak F Khan, manager, brand communication, were present at the programme.



Sajjatzumma, chairman of Shahjalal Islami Bank Ltd, inaugurates the 13th branch of the bank at Uttara in Dhaka recently. Other senior officials of the bank were also present at the inaugural function.

CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (October 11, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
66.7700	66.8000	USD	65.7000	65.5781	65.6343
81.2324	81.2689	EUR	78.2553	78.2292	78.1770
117.7956	117.8486	GBP	114.1800	114.1420	114.0858
51.5932	51.6164	AUD	48.9662	48.9499	48.9172
0.5930	0.5933	JPY	0.5719	0.5717	0.5713
52.5252	52.5488	CHF	50.6202	50.6034	50.5696
8.9529	8.9569	SEK	8.0576	8.0549	8.0495
57.3724	57.3982	CAD	55.3356	55.3172	55.2803
8.6273	8.6312	HKD	8.4503	8.4475	8.4418
40.4275	40.4456	SGD	38.8642	38.8513	38.8254
18.3293	18.3375	AED	17.7457	17.7398	17.7280
17.9422	17.9502	SAR	17.3764	17.3706	17.3590
11.2154	11.2205	DKK	10.1870	10.1836	10.1768
225.1541	225.2575	KWD	223.8961	223.8238	223.6792

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.65	59.83	101.365	40.880	6.5382	0.6978	3.77

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 11/10/2005

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Thanh Son	GI	Sing	Progati	9/10	11/10	3673
J/2	Murat Kiran	Wheat(P)	Vanc	Angelic	24/9	18/10	2320
J/3	Milos	Peas	L/New	Litmond	2/10	13/10	2292
J/4	Glengo	S. Billet	P. Kel	ASAL	9/10	13/10	371
J/5	Genius Pescadores	GI (S. Coil)	Sing	Everett	10/10	13/10	524
J/6	Piran	Urea(Bag)	Sing	Seacom	29/9	13/10	713
J/7	Maribor	GI	Sing	ANCL	8/10	12/10	630
J/8	Coastal Express	Cont	Kolk	BSCA	6/10	11/10	8
J/9	Shwe Tharaphu	Sugar	Yang	RCL	2/10	13/10	136
J/10	Orient Independence	Cont	Col	PSSL	7/10	13/10	2727
J/11	Tian Ling	C. Clink	Sing	OWSL	29/9	16/10	--
J/12	Banga Lanka	Cont	Sing	Bdship	6/10	11/10	--
J/12	Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	6/10	12/10	368

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Dawei	11/10	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing
Pan Express	11/10	Krabi	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Phu Tan	12/10	T. Tala	PSSL	Cont	Sing
OEL Excellence	12/10	Col	PSSL	Cont	Col
Banga Bijoy	12/10	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Glen Helen	13/10	Chenn	RSA	S. Coil	--
Mandalay	13/10	P. Kel	PML	Cont	P. Kel
Kola Berjaya	14/10	--	PHI(BD)	Cont	Sing
Banga Bodor	14/10	PKL	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Yaad-E-Mostafa	14/10	Prob	Cla	GI	--
Emily C	15/10	--	Everbest	Cont	Col

Tanker due

Padang Halaban	11/10	Pasir	MTCL	CPO (RM/8)
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Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Leopard Tide	--	--	IBSA	R/A(11/10)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	8/10
Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Everbest	8/10
Kola Ratna	Cont	Sing	PHI (BD)	9/10
Independence Spirit	Cont	Sing	Nol	10/10
Oel Enterprise	Cont	PTP	PSSL	10/10
Xpress Manaslu	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	10/10
Siamat-3	Bitumen	Pasir	Nishat	10/10
Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	10/10
Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	PML	11/10
Smooth Sea-1	Cpo	Lumut	Rainbow	11/10
Kota Ratu	Cont	Sing	PHI(BD)	11/10
Eastern Fortise	GI (St & Pap)	Busan	Progati	11/10

Vessels not ready

Feng Ping	B. Urea	Jubail	PSL	5/10
Apheron	CDSO	Martios	Rainbow	6/10
Meugang	Sugar	Col	JNship	6/10
Aoollonia	--	Tampa	BSL	10/10
Ocean Seal	Naptha	Sing	OSL	11/10

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
F. Jahan	Repair	Krabi	BRSL	11/8

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

STOCK