

Apec says EU farm cuts key to saving world trade talks

AFP, Busan, South Korea

Asia-Pacific nations on Wednesday said cutting farm subsidies was the key to salvaging next month's global trade talks, setting up a showdown with Europe over its state support for farmers.

With failure looming for December's World Trade Organisation (WTO) summit in Hong Kong, the Asia-Pacific bloc piled the pressure on the European Union, which has already said it will make no more concessions on the matter.

"We call for the breaking of the current impasse in agriculture negotiations," the 21 members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum said in a statement approved by foreign ministers and obtained by AFP. It said the farm issue had to be addressed first to ensure progress at the WTO meeting on the so-called Doha round of trade talks in Hong Kong.

"Unless progress is made in this area, we cannot make progress in the round as a whole. Avoiding or compromising our ambition on this issue

would mean we would lower expectations for the round as a whole."

Asia-Pacific nations have been involved in an increasingly bitter war of words with the European Union, with Australia and the United States repeatedly urging the EU to make new concessions.

The EU's system of financial support for the agriculture sector in the 25-member EU, known as the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP), includes import tariffs and is in theory aimed at protecting the livelihoods of Europe's farmers.

France, the top recipient of CAP subsidies, received 9.4 billion euros (11.3 billion dollars) in 2004, according to the French agricultural ministry.

The EU has refused to match a US offer on cutting farm subsidies, instead making a "bottom line" offer earlier this month to cut the bloc's overall tariff rate from 23 percent to 12 percent.

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson on Tuesday ruled out any more concessions from the European bloc, and accused APEC members of grand-standing on the issue.



PHOTO: STAR

Asif Iqbal, head of Marketing of mobile phone operator AKTEL, speaks at a press conference in Dhaka Tuesday to announce a new tariff plan styled 'AKTEL exceed' for the company's pre-paid subscribers. Vijay Watson, chief operating officer, and Mesbah Uddin, assistant general manager (Marketing), are also seen.



PHOTO: DCCI

Sayeeul Islam, president of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Mahbubur Rahman, president of the International Chamber of Commerce-Bangladesh, Manzur-Ur-Rahman, DCCI senior vice president, and other directors and former presidents of DCCI jointly inaugurate the renovated DCCI auditorium on Tuesday in Dhaka.

AKTEL launches new tariff plan

Cellphone operator AKTEL on Tuesday launched a new tariff plan styled 'AKTEL exceed' for its pre-paid subscribers.

The new tariff rates allow customers to talk at as low as Tk 1.90 per minute during peak hours (8am to 8pm), says a press release.

Asif Iqbal, head of Marketing of AKTEL, at a press conference in Dhaka announced the new tariff plan. Vijay Watson, chief operating officer, and Mesbah Uddin, assistant general manager (Marketing), among other senior officials of the operator, were present at the press conference.



PHOTO: BEPZA

Md Shahjahan, member (Investment Promotion) of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza), and Md Mosharrif Hossain, managing director of M/s Saleha Wires Ltd, a local company, exchange documents after signing an agreement on Tuesday in Dhaka. Under the deal, Saleha Wires will invest US\$ 4.148 million to set up a copper and aluminium conductors, wires and cable manufacturing plant in Adamjee Export Processing Zone.



PHOTO: DUTCH-BANGLA BANK

A four-week long foundation training course for the newly recruited assistant officers of Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd began on Monday in Dhaka. Md Yeasin Ali, managing director, Abul Hashem Khan, deputy managing director (Operation), KS Tabrez, DMD (Administration), and other senior officials were present at the inaugural session.

Local firm to invest \$4.148m in Adamjee EPZ

M/s Saleha Wires Ltd, a local company, is going to invest US\$ 4.148 million to set up a copper and aluminium conductors, wires and cable manufacturing plant in Adamjee Export Processing Zone (EPZ).

An agreement to this effect was signed between the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (Bepza) and M/s Saleha Wires Ltd on Tuesday in Dhaka, says a press release.

Md Shahjahan, member (Investment Promotion) of Bepza, and Md Mosharrif Hossain, managing director of M/s Saleha Wires, signed the deal on behalf of their respective sides.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (November 16, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Currency			Buy	
	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
66.3200	66.3500	USD	65.2500	65.2283	65.1848
78.6157	78.6513	EUR	75.4943	75.4691	75.4188
115.8146	115.8670	GBP	112.0343	111.9969	111.9222
49.5145	49.5369	AUD	46.9213	46.9056	46.8744
0.5645	0.5647	JPY	0.5450	0.5448	0.5444
50.9292	50.9522	CHF	49.1008	49.0844	49.0517
8.3777	8.3814	SEK	7.5737	7.5712	7.5662
56.1463	56.1717	CAD	54.1629	54.1448	54.1087
8.5699	8.5738	HKD	8.3929	8.3901	8.3845
39.7793	39.7973	SGD	38.2429	38.2301	38.2046
18.2033	18.2115	AED	17.6213	17.6155	17.6037
17.8251	17.8331	SAR	17.2610	17.2552	17.2437
10.8483	10.8532	DKK	9.8708	9.8675	9.8609
223.6423	223.7458	KWD	222.3750	222.3032	222.1596

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Norokroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.65	59.74	101.83	41.170	6.6667	0.6845	3.78

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 16/11/2005.

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Pavonis	GI (Log & Onion)	Yang	PML	3/11	19/11	1066
J/4	Eastem Star	Cont	Sing	PML	14/11	19/11	-
J/5	Kakra Kember	Copra	Sing	Mutual	9/11	21/11	487
J/6	Xpress Manasu	Cont	P Kel	RSL	13/11	18/11	34
J/7	Glengo	Wood Pulp	Indo	ASAL	14/11	17/11	17/11
J/8	Banga Bodor	Cont	-	Bdship	9/11	17/11	272
J/10	Banga Borak	Cont	Sing	Bdship	13/11	18/11	307
J/11	Emily C	Cont	Col	Everbest	12/11	17/11	297
J/12	Kola Ratu	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	11/11	17/11	309
J/13	Kola Rukum	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	9/11	16/11	132

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Jeannie-III	16/11	Naga	ASLL	C Clink	(Cemex)
Golden Star	16/11	-	Litmond	Urea	BCIC
F Jahan	16/11	Krabi	BRSL	C Clink	(Royal)
Coastal Express	16/11	Chenn	BSCA	Cont	Kole
Kyaw Yadanar	18/11	Yang	MTA	Pulses (P)	-
Kentung	17/11	Yangon	Everett	GI (S Coil & Log)	-
Kola Ratu	17/11	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Pha Shwe Gyawnywa	18/11	Yang	MTA	Ymaize (P)	-
Qc Teal	19/11	Sing	QCSL	Cont	P Kel
Mandalay	18/11	P Kel	PML	Cont	Ctg
Oel Freedom	18/11	Sin	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Marisa Green	18/11	Sin	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Taishun	18/11	P Kel	Everett	Car (103)	-
Ocean Pride	19/11	Sin	PSAL	Urea	BCIC
Banga Borat	20/11	Sin	Bdship	Cont	P Kel/Sing
Kola Berjaya	20/11	Sin	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Pagan	19/11	Yang	MTA	-	-
Silver Bin	18/11	Zhou	Pol	C Clink	-
Banga Bijoy	20/11	CSO	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Feliz-1	20/11	Tunig	SSSTL	FTSP/Fert	-
OetWisdom	21/11	-	PSSL	Cont	Col

Tanker due

Suzanne	17/11	Al-Jubear	Rainbow	Caus. Soda (RM/4)
Al-Badiyah	21/11	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/MS

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banga Bonik	Cont	Chenni	Baridhi	15/11

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Banga Bonik	Cont	Chenni	Baridhi	15/11
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Vessels not ready

Alison	S Lag	Sing	Move	20/10
Layer Sentosa	Sugar (P)	Bank	Able	2/11
Sanim	Sugar	Santo	Litmond	9/11
J Fortune	TSP/S Ash	Fang	Unique	11/11
Ames	Wheat (P)	-	Litmond	11/11
Fenix	Wheat	Tua	Pol	12/11
Dai Viet	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	12/11
Khakada	Ballast	---	AMBL	13/11
Fu Shen	Ballast	Cal	Mutual	13/11
The Rmopylae Sierra	S Lag	-	Move	14/11
Manyasi	Wheat	Odessa	MTCL	15/11

Vessels not entering

Prestigious	Sugar	Santos	Mutual	R/A (29/9)
Winona	C Clink	Nant	USL	9/10
Maris	C Clink	Lumut	Litmond	6/11
Iran Nayab	C Clink	Sing	USL	8/11
Pan Express	C Clink	Krabi	ASLL	4/11
Yaad-e-Mostafa	Salt/Soda	Indi	CLA	R/A (9/11)
Ks Harmony	Gypsum	Krabi	ASLL	6/11
Sania Barbara	C Clink	Krabi	Uniship	16/11

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of

STOCK