

Mandelson claims broad backing for offers in WTO talks

AFP, Brussels

EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson said Monday that European Union member states were now united behind his offers in crunch WTO trade talks despite past reservations from some countries.

"There really was a genuine sense of unity and cohesion amongst member states which I welcome because previously you could see different emphasises being placed on different directions and different parts of the offer we that we made", he told journalists after meeting with EU foreign ministers.

Mandelson has faced fierce criticism notably from France for proposing deep cuts in EU farm subsidies and tariffs in talks at the World Trade Organisation ahead of a key mid-December meeting in Hong Kong.

"What the offer has done is succeed in bringing member states together in a common position of agreement and strength ahead of Hong Kong", Mandelson said.

WTO trade negotiators are racing against the clock to reach a deal for ministers to sign when they meet in Hong Kong from December 13-18.

The EU has been fiercely criticised for not going far enough in talks on agriculture with its promise to slash its subsidies and tariffs on farm products.

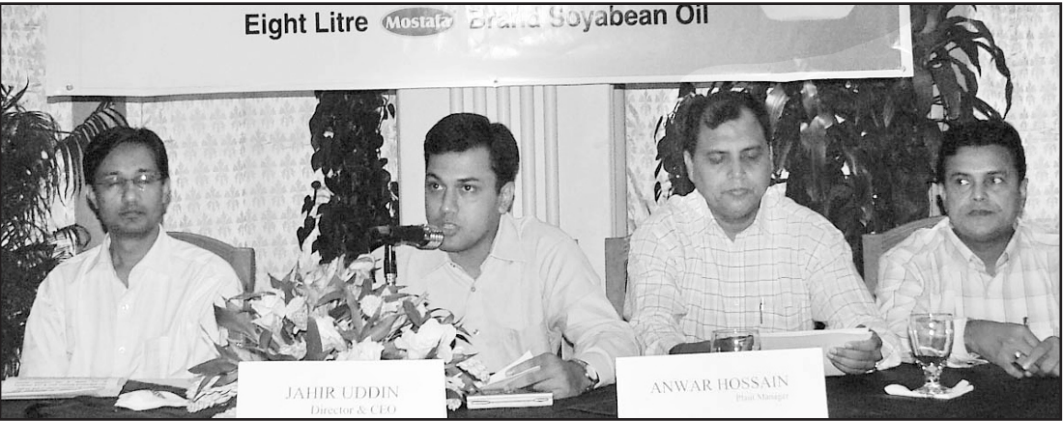
But the European Commission, the EU's executive body representing the 25 member states in the talks, has said it would make no new offer on trade before the WTO meeting next month.

"There was also universal unity in calling for the main negotiating partners to reciprocate to the offer that we made," Mandelson said following the EU foreign ministers meeting.

He also said that he was to meet with delegation from the Brazil, India, and the United States in Geneva on Tuesday for further talks.



Ahmad Bin Ismail, managing director of AKTEL, and Mohammad Abdur Rob, MD of National Housing Finance & Investment Ltd, pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony on Thursday in Dhaka. Under the deal, National Housing has become a corporate client of the mobile phone operator.



Zahir Uddin, managing director of Mostafa Group of Industries, speaks at a press conference in Chittagong Saturday to announce the launch of Vitamin A and D2 enriched Mostafa brand soybean oil.

GP distribution confce held

Country's leading cellphone operator GrameenPhone Ltd held its eighth distribution conference on Sunday in Dhaka.

Presentations on GP products and services, after-sales services and networks were made at the daylong conference attended by the company's Managing Director Erik Aas, Deputy Managing Director Frank Fodstad, Sales and Distribution Director Ingvald Lyche and other senior officials, says a press release.

Besides, prizes were distributed among 23 winners of the sales competition among all GP exclusive sales outlets.

Qatar Airways wins travel awards

Qatar Airways boosted its tally of international honours by grabbing four key accolades at the 12th World Travel Awards at a function in London recently.

Akbar Al Baker, chief executive officer of the airline, was honoured with the 2005 Airline Personality of the Year Award, says a press release.

The airline also picked up awards for World's Leading Flat Bed Seat, Best In-flight Meal Service and Leading Airline in the Middle East.



Erik Aas, managing director of mobile phone operator GrameenPhone Ltd, gives away an award to a winner of a sales campaign at the GrameenPhone Distribution Conference on Sunday in Dhaka.



Participants and resource persons of a five-day training course on 'Financial Management & Standard Accounting Procedures', organised by the Centre for Developing Professional Excellence- Quader Kabir & Associates, pose for photographs on Friday. Sunanda Kabir, chief executive officer of the company, inaugurated the training programme.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (November 21, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank					
Sell			Buy		
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
66.5700	66.6000	USD	65.4000	65.3782	65.3346
79.2582	79.2940	EUR	76.0013	75.9760	75.9253
114.9797	115.0315	GBP	111.0286	110.9926	110.9186
49.8343	49.5717	AUD	47.1730	47.1573	47.1258
0.5651	0.5654	JPY	0.5448	0.5446	0.5446
51.1998	51.2229	CHF	48.2841	48.2677	49.2348
8.4862	8.4900	SEK	7.6585	7.6560	7.6509
56.4823	56.5077	CAD	54.4093	54.3912	54.3549
8.6048	8.6087	HKD	8.4147	8.4119	8.4063
39.9580	39.9760	SGD	38.3578	38.3450	38.3194
18.2719	18.2801	AED	17.6618	17.6559	17.6442
17.8923	17.9003	SAR	17.3007	17.2949	17.2834
10.9359	10.9408	DKK	9.9357	9.9324	9.9258
224.4647	224.5681	KWD	222.9057	222.8337	222.6898
Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar					
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar
45.68	59.87	101.895	41.240	6.7013	0.6842
Local Interbank FX Trading					
Local interbank FX market was active. USD was steady against BDT.					
Local Money Market					
Money market was active. Call money rate was unchanged and ranged between 6.00 and 6.50 percent.					
International Market					
The euro jumped to a two-week high versus the dollar on Monday underpinned by comments by European Central Bank President Jean Claude Trichet who last Friday signalled an imminent interest rate hike in the euro zone.					

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port							
Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Kakra Kember	Copra	Sing	Mutual	9/11	23/11	8611
J/2	Keng Tung	GI(S. Coil)	Yang	Everett	16/11	21/11	8217
J/3	Sarim	Sugar	Santo	Litmond	9/11	27/11	2950
J/4	Pavonis	GI(Log & Onion)	Yang	PML	3/11	20/11	575
J/5	Pha Shwe Gyawya Y. Maize(P)			Yang	MTA	18/11	23/11
J/7	Thermola Esterra	S. Lag	--	Move	14/11	24/11	2688
J/8	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	20/11	24/11	166
J/10	Marissa Green	Cont	Sing	Everbest	18/11	23/11	302
J/11	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	PML	14/11	19/11	143
J/12	Manadabay	Cont	P. Kel	PML	20/11	23/11	209
Vessels due at outer anchorage							
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports		
Banga Bijoy	21/11	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col		
Tay Son-I	21/11	Busan	Progati	--	Col		
Xpress Resolve	21/11	Col	Everbest	Cont	Col		
Sonali	22/11	Kand	SSSTL	S. Cholor	---		
Pagan	25/11	Yang	MTA	Timber Los(P)	---		
Banglar Shikha	21/11	P. Kel	BSC	Cont	Sing		
Sea Light-II	21/11	Sin	Litmond	C. Clink	---		
Oc Dignity	22/11	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing		
Coastal Express	22/11	Kolk	BSC	Cont	Vizag		
Oel Excellence	22/11	Sin	PSSL	Cont	Sing		
Romy	22/11	Sing	PII(Bd)	Cont	Sing		
Maritime Songkhla	22/11	--	BSL	C. Clink	Hcbl		
Oel Wisdom	23/11	Col	PSSL	Cont	Col		
Xpress Nuplse	24/11	P. Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing		
Independent Spirit	23/11	--	APL	Cont	---		
Kyaw Yadanar	24/11	Yang	MTA	Pulses(P)	---		
Tanker due							
Suzanne	20/11	Hald	Rainbow	Caus. Soda(RM/4)	---		
Al Badiyah	21/11	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/MS	---		
Siam Sathaporn	23/11	Dumai	SNCL	CPO	---		
Gaz Millennium	23/11	Sing	MBL	Amonia K(A)	---		
Smooth Sea-7	23/11	--	Rainbow	CPO	---		
Scottish Wizard	25/11	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Sko	---		
Vessels at Kutubdia							
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival			
Vessels at outer anchorage							
Vessels ready							
Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	PII(Bd)	20/11			
Reunion	Cont	Sing	Apal	20/11			
Vessels not ready							
Alison	S. Lag	Sing	Move	20/10			
Layer Sentosa	Sugar(P)	Bank	Able	2/11			
Khaleda	Ballast	---	AMBL	13/11			
Manyasi	Wheat	Odessa	MTCL	15/11			
Al-Sabiyah	Hsd/Sko	Kuwa	MSTPL	16/11			
Golden Star	Urea	China	Litmond	17/11			
Kyriakosm	Wheat(P)	Kerci	BSL	19/11			
Krabi Navee	R. Sugar	Durban	Park	20/11			
Vessels awaiting employment/ instruction							
Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicorn	10/11/2004			
Dragonis	--	--	Seacom	R/A(10/11)			
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A(18/11)			
Geo Eastern	Ballast	Wittwe	SLL	20/11			
Vessels not entering							
Prestigious	Sugar	Santos	Mutual	R/A(29/9)			
Iran Nayab	C. Clink	Sing	USL	8/11			
Yaad-E-Mostafa	Salt/Soda	Indi	Cla	R/A(9/11)			
The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet							

STOCK