

C'wealth chief warns of 'walk out' by small WTO states

Commonwealth chief Don McKinnon warned Wednesday that developing countries would walk away from WTO trade talks unless rich countries declare themselves willing to give more than they get from the deadlocked negotiations.

"Unless developed countries are willing to give more than they get, and offer real development dividends, there is a high risk that developing countries will walk away," McKinnon told a meeting of the Commonwealth People's Forum ahead of a 53-state summit here this week.

"They have already done so, as you'll recall at Cancun (the failed

Mexico talks in 2003) and they'll do so again. For them, no deal is better than a bad deal, and I have a great deal of sympathy for that," the body's general secretary said.

Signalling a get-tough stance from smaller states which comprise a large part of the loose association of former British colonies, McKinnon said this weekend's summit should drive forward the political agenda and "pursue a higher level of ambition."

He said there was now "a high level of dependency and a low level of ambition for the Doha Round. The negotiations are in more serious trouble than ever before."

"But developing countries did not

get a deal on agriculture in the Uruguay Round. We said at the end of the round that we would attend to developing country needs and to agriculture next time. Now is the next time."

"If heads this weekend can come out with a clear political message to their negotiating teams to maintain a high level of ambition, then our 53 leaders may be able to give the WTO the shot in the arm it requires at this critical moment."

"We account in the Commonwealth for one fifth of global trade, so we have a legitimate right and a responsibility to show leadership."

Dubai sets stage for plane orders race

REUTERS, Dubai

If surging sales were meant to take some of the sting out of the Airbus-Boeing rivalry, someone's forgotten to tell both of the world's biggest planemakers.

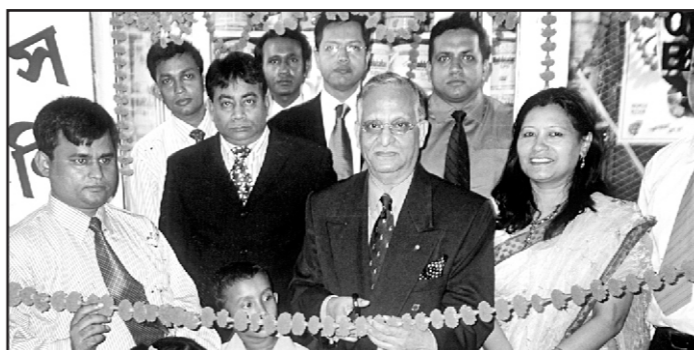
On Wednesday, a record-breaking Dubai Air Show was beginning to wind down after a breathtaking four days in which the two slugged it out like heavyweight boxers, announcing orders worth around \$23 billion and taking swings at each other's marketing strategies.

Both manufacturers see their rival's latest offering as a "paper airplane", meaning an unproven model. Each can tell you how the numbers show their plane is cheaper to operate and the better buy.

Executives at Airbus say they can catch up with Boeing in orders this year, despite trailing by more than 200 with about five weeks to go.



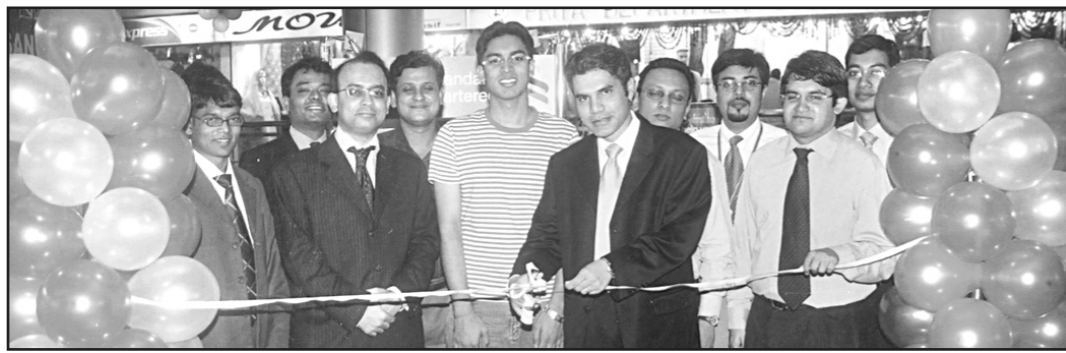
MA Tayiab, head of Operations of Eastern Bank Ltd, and RQM Forkan, chief operating officer of AB Bank, sign an agreement on behalf of their organisations recently. Under the deal, Eastern Bank and AB Bank will facilitate each other's draft issuance. The facility will be available in all 22 branches of Eastern Bank and 66 branches of AB Bank across the country.



Masih-Ul-Karim, managing director of Berger Paints (BD) Ltd, formally inaugurates a Color Bank outlet at Muslim Store, Nawapara in Jessore on Monday. Other high officials of Berger Paints were also present.



M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, managing director of Prime Bank Limited, and Sayyed Husain Jamal, managing director of LankaBangla Finance Limited, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their organisations recently. Under the accord, Prime Bank has extended a credit line facility of Tk 100 million to LankaBangla to finance its business activities.



M Sajidur Rahma, head of Consumer Banking of Standard Chartered Bank, formally inaugurates the bank's 2nd financial kiosk at Plaza AR Shopping Centre in Dhaka recently. The booth will offer information and services to customers regarding the products and services of the bank even during the non-banking hour.

S Korean parliament approves rice bill

AFP, Seoul

South Korea's parliament on Wednesday approved a bill opening the domestic rice market wider to imports, triggering street protests across the country and scuffles inside the National Assembly.

There were 139 votes in favour, 61 against and 23 abstentions in the 299-member chamber. The vote came some three weeks before crucial World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks in Hong Kong, where farm trade will be a major issue.

Some 200 farmers chanting slogans and carrying banners condemning the opening of the rice market protested outside the National Assembly.

Thousands of others were confronting police in some 100 cities and towns across the country to protest the vote, a farming union official told AFP.

Angry farmers' leaders called for a massive protest rally on December 1 and threatened to resort to violence to block rice imports.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (November 23, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	Buy	OD Transfer
66.6200	66.6500	USD	65.4500	65.4282	65.3846
79.4577	79.4935	EUR	78.2100	76.1846	76.1338
115.2593	115.3112	GBP	111.3697	111.3328	111.2584
50.0516	50.0741	AUD	47.3923	47.3765	47.3450
0.5679	0.5682	JPY	0.5474	0.5472	0.5469
51.3330	51.3561	CHF	49.4149	49.3984	49.3655
8.5483	8.5521	SEK	7.7110	7.7084	7.7033
57.3421	57.3679	CAD	55.2181	55.1997	55.1629
8.6095	8.6133	HKD	8.4231	8.4203	8.4147
40.1156	40.1337	SGD	38.5068	38.4940	38.4683
18.2856	18.2939	AED	17.6758	17.6699	17.6581
17.9052	17.9133	SAR	17.3130	17.3072	17.2957
10.9628	10.9678	DKK	9.9571	9.9538	9.9471
224.6766	224.7800	KWD	222.9852	222.9132	222.7692

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.71	59.725	101.945	41.150	6.6769	0.6907	3.78

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SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 23/11/2005

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	24/11	2814
J/2	Reunion	Cont	Sing	APL	20/11	25/11	274
J/3	Sarim	Sugar	Santo	Litmond	9/11	25/11	3104
J/4	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Everbest	21/11	24/11	230
J/5	Pha Shwe Gyawmya	Y. Maizze(p)	Yang	MTA	18/11	23/11	351
J/6	Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	BSC	21/11	25/11	164
J/7	Thermola Estera	S. Lag	--	Move	14/11	24/11	3022
J/8	Tay Son-1	Gl(pap/stliche)	Busan	Progati	21/11	26/11	2031
J/11	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	20/11	24/11	125
J/12	Manadalay	Cont	P. Kel	PML	20/11	23/11	--
J/13	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	20/11	24/11	25

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Oel Wisdom	23/11	Col	PSSL	Cont	Col
Weston	23/11	Novo	Jnship	Wheat(p)	--
Kyaw Yadanar	27/11	Yang	MTA	Pulses(p)	--
Xpress Nuptse	23/11	P. Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Qc Star	24/11	P. Kel	QCQL	Cont	Sing
Oel Enterprise	26/11	--	PSSL	Cont	Col
Bursa	25/11	Odasu	PSL	Wheat(g)	--
Pagan	25/11	Yang	MTA	Timber Los(p)	--
Ocean Pride	25/11	--	PSAL	Urea	Boic
Banga Biraj	25/11	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Dawei	25/11	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya	25/11	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Golden Hope	25/11	--	Litmond	GTSP	--

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Gaz Millennium	24/11	Sing	MBL	Amonia K(a)	--
Tablin	24/11	Malu	MTCL	CPO (RM/3)	--
Smooth Sea-7	24/11	P. Kel	USL	CPO	--
Al Barakat-I	25/11	Bela	MTCL	CPO (RM/8)	--
Scottish Wizard	25/11	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Sko	--
Port Russel	26/11	Kuwa	MSTPL	Sko/JP-1	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	22/11
Oel Excellence	Cont	Tpk	PSSL	22/11
Romy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	22/11
Coastal Express-1	Cont	Cal	BSC	22/11
Qc Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	QCQL	23/11
Independence Spirit	Cont	Sing	Nol	23/11
Al Sabyiah	HSD/sko	Kuwa	MSTPL	16/11
Siam Sathaporn	CPO	Dumai	SNCL	23/11

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction:

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicorn	10/11/2004
Dragonis	--	--	Seacom	R/A (10/11)
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (18/11)

Vessels not entering:

Prestigious	Sugar	Santos	Mutual	R/A (29/9)
Yaad-e-mostafa	Salt/soda	Indi	Cla	R/A (9/11)
Bright Queen	C. Clink	Nant	Move	16/11
Asian Prime	C. Clink	Lugait	ASLL	16/11
Jeannie-iii	C. Clink	Phili	ASLL	16/11
Feng Tai	Urea	Sing	Seacom	16/11
F. Jahan	C. Clink	Krabi	Brsi	18/11
Silver Bin	C. Clink	Zhou	POL	19/11
Jag Vikram	C. Clink	Nant	USL	19/11

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

STOCK