

## ROK, Asean sign deal on FTA

AP, Kuala Lumpur

South Korea and Southeast Asia signed an accord Tuesday that calls for completing negotiations by the end of 2006 on freeing up trade, though a major hurdle remains over a rice import dispute with Thailand. The framework agreement sets out basic principles and targets with the ultimate goal of creating a market of 548 million people with a combined economy of more than US\$1.4 trillion (euro1.2 trillion). South Korean President Roh Moo-hyun and his counterparts from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations inked the accord after their annual meeting in

Malaysia's main city, Kuala Lumpur. Roh hailed the agreement as "a step forward" that would further strengthen economic cooperation between the two sides, according to his aides.

"Based on this, I hope remaining liberalization negotiations will wrap up next year," Roh told his Asean counterparts, according to Chung Woo-sung, the chief presidential aide for foreign affairs.

An overall free trade deal also involves four other pacts - dealing with goods, services, investment and dispute settlement.

While there is little problem with the last three accords, a rice dispute has complicated the pact on trade in

goods. The goods pact was signed last week by Seoul and nine of Asean's 10 members after Thailand, the world's top rice exporter, decided to stay out of it, objecting to South Korea's insistence on excluding rice from the accord.

Seoul, which faces an often-militant farm lobby at home, keeps its doors shut to foreign rice through high tariffs and subsidies for small-plot farmers.

"It's an immovable principle that rice cannot be included" in the free trade accord, said Chung, the presidential aide.

Both sides, however, expressed optimism about finding a compro-

mise. South Korean officials said the goods accord will be complete by April while Thailand officials forecast "three or six months" before joining that pact.

Despite the rice row, Thailand joined other Asean members in signing Tuesday's framework accord as well as the dispute settlement pact with South Korea.

The two sides plan to launch talks to finalize the two other accords - trade in services and investment - next year. South Korean officials said the two pacts would be much easier than the goods accord.



Richard Larison, chief executive officer of Apollo Hospitals Dhaka, inaugurates an information centre of the hospital on Dhap Jail Road in Rangpur recently. The centre will remain open from Saturday to Thursday from 10am to 7pm with a break of an hour from 1:30pm to 2:30pm.



An official of Nestle Bangladesh Ltd. hands over a prize to the winner of a six-month-long wholesale promotional campaign styled "Ke Hoben Bebashar Badsha" of the company at a prize giving ceremony yesterday in Chittagong.



Organisers of 'Bangladesh Tourism Fair 2005', scheduled for December 15-18 in Dhaka, held a press conference in the capital on Sunday.

## Nestle hopes Tk 265cr annual turnover

STAFF CORRESPONDENT, Ctg

Nestle Bangladesh Limited, a leader in consumer food item, hopes its annual turnover in its Bangladesh operation will reach Tk 265 crore in 2005.

M Shahadat Hossain, Nestle Bangladesh regional manager (Sales), yesterday said this at a price giving programme. Nestle Bangladesh organized the prize giving ceremony as part of its six-month-long wholesale promotional programme in Chittagong.



Mamoon M Shah, manager (Personal Financial Services) of HSBC, and Trevor MacDonal, general manager of Dhaka Sheraton Hotel, pose for photographs at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony recently in the capital. Under the MoU, 'Premier' customers of HSBC will enjoy certain exclusive benefits from Sheraton including use of Balaka VIP customer lounge at Zia International Airport free of cost, discounts at Sheraton's Vintage restaurant and many other special offers.

## Tourism fair from Thursday

A four-day 'Bangladesh Tourism Fair 2005' will begin at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar in Dhaka from Thursday.

Finance Minister M Saifur Rahman is expected to inaugurate the fair at Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Centre, says a press release.

The organisers of the show, which will remain open from 10am to 8pm everyday, announced the fair schedule at a press conference in Dhaka on Sunday.

Local and foreign tour operators and tourism industry-related organisations will showcase their products, services and attractive packages at six pavilions and 70 stalls at the fair.

## CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (December 13, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Slight Doc	OD Transfer
67.8200	67.8500	USD	66.6500	66.6278	66.5834
82.0486	82.0849	EUR	78.7403	78.7141	78.6616
121.1876	121.2412	GBP	117.2040	117.1650	117.0868
52.3503	52.3734	AUD	49.6143	49.5977	49.5646
0.5733	0.5735	JPY	0.5528	0.5526	0.5522
532841	53.3077	CHF	51.2890	51.2719	51.2377
8.9439	8.9479	SEK	8.1501	8.1474	8.1420
59.5539	59.5803	CAD	57.3383	57.3192	57.2809
8.7664	8.7702	HKD	8.5758	8.5729	8.5672
41.2756	41.2939	SGD	39.6113	39.5981	39.5717
18.6155	18.6237	AED	17.9999	17.9939	17.9819
18.2287	18.2368	SAR	17.6318	17.6259	17.6142
11.3444	11.3494	DKK	10.2930	10.2895	10.2827
228.7815	228.8849	KWD	227.0396	226.9663	226.8196

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.955	59.785	101.995	41.175	6.6418	0.7108	3.77

**Local Interbank FX Trading**  
Local interbank FX market was active on Tuesday. Demand for USD remained high.

**Local Money Market**  
Money market was active on Tuesday. Call money rate was unchanged and ranged between 7.50 and 8.00 percent.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 13/12/2005

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	D of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Dolly	Wheat (P)	Const	Park	30/11	16/12	2220
J/3	Nordic Confidence	GI (St HRC)	Hald	Barwill	9/12	15/12	1827
J/4	Orient Independence	Cont	Sing	PSSL	10/12	15/12	6
J/5	Sonali	S Cholor/GI	Kand	SSTL	22/11	17/12	-
J/6	Qc Star	Cont	Sing	QCSL	10/12	15/12	106
J/7	Qel Wisdom	Cont	Col	PSSL	9/12	13/12	24
J/8	Ocean Pride	Urea	Pena	PSAL	29/11	14/12	690
J/9	Huai Yang	Urea (Bag)	Sing	Sacom	29/11	13/12	79
J/10	Banga Shikha	Cont	P Kel	BSC	9/12	13/12	157
J/11	Oel Enterprise	Cont	Sing	PSSL	11/12	14/12	324
J/12	Emily-C	Cont	Col	Seacon	9/12	14/12	187

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Qc Honour	13/12	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Germana	13/12	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Nancy	13/12	Nant	USL	C Clink	Uni/Oly
Sirius-1	14/12	Odessa	PSL	Wheat (G)	-
Kota Ratu	14/12	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Mong
Qc Teal	14/12	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	Pki
Swallow	14/12	Sing	Rsship	Demolition	-
Tug Tropical Regal	14/12	Lumut	OTL	Towing Barge Tropical	-
Barge Tropical-228	14/12	Lumut	OTL	lcp Piles	-
Alaska Dream	13/12	Yang	PML	GI (Log)	-
Dong Hai	14/12	Guan	KSM	C Clink	Conf
Global Sydney	15/12	Kimi	Litmond	Collis	-
Banga Borti	16/12	Cbo	Baridhi	Cont	Pki

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Andhika Ashura	13/12	-	Rainbow	CPO (RM/3)	-
Lalazar	13/12	Jebe	OWSL	Crude Oil	-
Al Deerah	14/12	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1	-
Pacific Sound	15/12	Ind	BSL	CPO	-
Salamat-3	15/12	Hald	Nishat	Bitumen (RM/3)	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	-	-	Ibsa	R/A(11/12)

Outside port limit

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	-	-	Ibsa	R/A(11/12)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Xpress Nuptse	Cont	P Kel	Seacon	11/12
Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	11/12
Reunion	Cont	Sing	Nol	11/12
Phu Tan	Cont	Tanj	PSSL	12/12
Bonvoy-Vii	Cpo	Pasi	KMZ	12/12
Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	12/12
Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	13/12

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Hk Deqin-201	GI/Sp, TSP	Sing	Kdsa	R/A(11/12)
Energy Falcon	TPS (Fert)	Fang	Unique	06/12
Pha Shwegyaw Ywa	GI(Pul/Ym)	Yang	MTA	10/12
Endurance	HSD/MMS	Kuwa	MSTPL	11/12

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Bumi Jaya	-	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
Dragonis	-	-	Seacon	R/A(10/11)
Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC	R/A(26/11)

Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Weston	Wheat (P)	Novo	Jnship	26/11
Sunshine Ubilee	Dap (P)	Sing	BSS	29/11
Dobnush	MS Billets	Mart	MMSL	3/12

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of CPAs supplied by family, Dhaka.

## STOCK