

EU trade chief eyes summit to unblock WTO talks

AFP, Strasbourg

EU trade chief Peter Mandelson raised the possibility Thursday that leaders from big trading nations may need to meet to unblock stalled WTO talks after ministers failed to make progress last week. WTO ministers meeting last week in Geneva missed their target of agreeing on a detailed framework to complete the current round of trade liberalisation talks by the end of the year. Mandelson said that it was

"likely" that WTO ministers would need to meet in towards the end of the month to hammer out an agreement.

However, he added: "The possibility of a meeting of the heads of state and government in some formation or other to take forward the negotiations around the time of the G8 meeting in 10 days is not ruled out."

Leaders of the Group of Eight industrialized nations are due to meet in Saint Petersburg on July 15-17.

The 149 members of the WTO had given themselves until the end of June to reach an interim deal on the calculations for cutting rich countries' farm subsidies and customs duties, as well as import tariffs levied on manufactured goods by emerging economies such as Brazil and India.

But they missed their target because of persistent differences over the relative concessions required of different members, with negotiators refusing to budge unless others shifted position first.

Lamy prods Japan, other WTO players to go further

AFP, Tokyo

World Trade Organization director general Pascal Lamy urged Japan and other key players in talks on a free trade pact to make bigger concessions to break the current deadlock.

"We need each of the big players to put more on the table," he said, singling out the United States, Brazil, the European Union, Japan and India.

Key WTO members failed to break a stalemate over cuts in domestic farm subsidies and tariffs for agricultural and industrial products during intensive talks last month in Geneva.

Lamy told reporters the goal of reaching an agreement by the end of this year had become more difficult after the failure of the latest ministerial talks to achieve a breakthrough.

But the Frenchman said he still believes "the agreement is durable and that the gaps remaining are bridgeable."

Lamy said he started his trip in Tokyo to seek further compromises and to find out the extent of the concessions countries were willing to make.

He expressed optimism that Japan could be flexible in negotiations, following a series of meetings with government ministers and Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi during his stay.

"The WTO is in a crisis, and we need Japan's help," he said. "Japan is one of the greatest beneficiaries of the WTO."

Lamy, who has used such doom-laden warnings in the past, also stressed the sense of urgency for a successful ending in the current round of talks.

"Time is not our friend. We are in the red zone, which means that clockwise we are in a pretty dangerous situation."

"If the WTO members are serious about creating a more equitable, relevant trading system, there is no option but moving now," he said.

Trade negotiators are aware of the expiration of the United States president's "fast-track" trading authority, the Trade Promotion Authority (TPA), in a year.



PHOTO: SINGER BANGLADESH
Sajidur Rahman Khan, marketing director of Singer Bangladesh Ltd, inaugurates a 'Singer Plus' store at Birganj in Dinajpur recently. Senior officials of the company, among others, were present at the function.



PHOTO: BRANDZEAL
Shariful Islam, chief executive officer of Brandzeal, poses for photographs with the participants of a workshop on brand management organised by the company recently in Dhaka.



PHOTO: JBCCI
Directors of Japan-Bangladesh Chamber of Commerce and Industry (JBCCI) have an 'exchange of opinions' meeting with Tadayuki Yoshimura, director, and Toru Tachikawa, assistant director of the Financial Co-operation Division of the Ministry of Economy, Trade & Industry of Japanese government, on Wednesday in Dhaka. Hideo Ueno, JBCCI president, and Matiur Rahman, former president of the chamber, were also present.



PHOTO: HOLCIM BANGLADESH
PN Iyer, managing director of Holcim (Bangladesh) Ltd, a leading cement manufacturing company, hands over a certificate to a participant in a two-day 'Refresher-2006' training programme organised by the company recently in Narayanganj.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 06/07/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	DI of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Vera	Wheat(p)	Ukra	Jnship	1/6	8/7	1205
J/2	Yaad-e-mohammed	Sugar	Mum	Cla	9/6	7/7	288
J/3	Xuan Cheng	Gypsum/isp	Fang	Cosco	17/6	10/7	810
J/4	Huang Shan	Gi	Chin	Cosco	3/7	10/7	1452
J/5	Santa Suria	GI(R. Log)	Yang	AMBL	29/6	10/7	930
J/7	Greta-c	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	29/6	8/7	321
J/8	Golden Star	Ureal(bic)	Ruwai	PSAL	27/6	16/7	1301
J/9	Ocean Park	Cont	Sing	Seacon	29/6	7/7	114
J/10	Cape Bonavista	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	27/6	8/7	150
J/11	Oel Freedom	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	1/7	9/7	140
J/12	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	30/6	9/7	59
J/13	Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	30/6	9/7	162
CCT/1	Rio Lawrence	Cont	Ptp	QCSL	24/6	8/7	460
CCT/2	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	26/6	8/7	332

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Kota Cahaya	7/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Maris	6/7	Thai	Litmond	C. Clink	Siah
Tyhi	9/7	Viz	Olm	Slag	Dia/pad
Sarim	7/7	Indo	Litmond	C. Clink	-
Coastal Express	7/7	Viza	BSC	Cont	Kol
Maritime Chiangmai	7/7	Tarj	BSL	C. Clink	Hcbi
Bangkhursri	7/7	-	ABJ	Scraping	-
Emily-c	7/7	Pkl	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Kota Rajin	7/7	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Bina	7/7	Batta	Pacific	Scraping	-
Banga Bijoy	8/7	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Eastern Fortis	10/7	Busa	Prog	GI(Pa/si)	-
Oel Excellence	8/7	Col	PSSL	Cont	Col
Cape Henry	7/7	Sin	APL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Makalu	9/7	Sin	Seacon	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Isokaze	7/7	Lumut	Rainbow	CPO (RM3)	-
Al Kuwailah	7/7	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/MS	-
Al Badiyah	10/7	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	-

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:

Kanok Naree	Wheat(p)	Turk	Litmond	21/6
Osg Bosslec	Cont	Col	Seacon	29/6
Kota Rancak	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	1/7
Delmas Kaveri	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	2/7
Oel Wisdom	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	2/7
Selatan Megah	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	3/7
New Sea Star	Cont	Mala	QCSL	3/7
Qc Teal	Cont	Col	BSC	4/7
Banglar Robi	Cont	Ptp	CEL	5/7
Esham	Cont	P. Kel	CEL	5/7
Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	5/7

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction:

Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (21/6)
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A (24/6)
Noor-e-mostafa	--	Anna	PML	12/6

Vessels not entering:

Jovality	Wheat(p)	Novo	Mutual	11/6
Biloxi Belle	Wheat(p)	Odess	Litmond	17/6
Golden Globe	Wheat(p)	Novo	AMBL	18/6
Yong An-4	R. Sugar	Sant	Rainbow	24/6
Vana	C. Clink	Sing	Move	2/7
Jag Vikas	Gypsum	Saia	Uniship	28/6
Seal	Scraping	Indo	Sigma	R/A (28/6)
Kapitan Dudin-1	Scraping	Shang	Anz	5/7

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

CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (July 6, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
70.2700	70.3000	USD	69.0500	69.0270	68.9810
90.6132	90.6519	EUR	86.6647	86.6358	86.5780
130.2595	130.3151	GBP	125.2015	125.1597	125.0763
53.1944	53.2171	AUD	50.3720	50.3552	50.3216
0.6179	0.6182	JPY	0.5939	0.5937	0.5933
57.7593	57.7840	CHF	55.5466	55.5281	55.4911
110.1577	110.1620	SEK	9.1898	9.1867	9.1806
63.8238	63.8510	CAD	61.4051	61.3846	61.3437
9.0637	9.0676	HKD	8.8661	8.8631	8.8572
45.3296	45.3490	SGD	43.4359	43.4214	43.3924
19.2880	19.2962	AED	18.6475	18.6413	18.6289
18.8878	18.8958	SAR	18.2662	18.2601	18.2480
12.5241	12.5294	DKK	11.3052	11.3014	11.2939
239.6471	239.7516	KWD	237.0286	236.9520	236.7986

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.82	60.235	103.99	37.990	6.2276	0.6100	3.64

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Thursday. USD remained stable against the Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market

Money market was active on Thursday. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50 and 7.00 percent.

STOCK