

Blair wants G8 expanded to G13

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair wants China, India, Brazil, Mexico and South Africa to join the G8 to secure multilateral deals on trade, climate change and Iran, The Guardian newspaper said Thursday.

He wants the five countries to become members of a wider G13, he was to say at this weekend's Saint Petersburg summit of the Group of Eight leading industrial powers, the British daily reported after an interview with Blair.

The British premier reckoned that the first fruits of closer engagement could be a break of the logjam in the ailing Doha round of world trade talks.

Canada, Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, hosts Russia and the United States form the G8.

At the summit, Blair intended to push for a successor to the Kyoto treaty on climate change, a process he believed would be greatly helped by the inclusion of big emerging economies.

"There is no way we can deal with climate change inless we get

an agreement that binds in the United States, China and India," he told The Guardian.

"We have got to get an agreeement with a binding framework -- of that I am in no doubt at all.

"There is no point in thinking Congress is going to enter a commitment to change the structure of the US economy without China and India being part of the deal."

Blair said the G8 had to recognise that Iran was "a test case for multilateralism".

"If we cannot come together and agree a common line on Iran, which

is a global threat, it is damaging.

"If an issue as crucial and sensitive, but not actually of direct national interest or threatening our existence, if we cannot come together and agree a common line, then that is serious."

Blair added that he was confident Russian President Vladimir Putin would not be able to avoid a debate on Russia's slide from democracy at the annual summit.

Blair pledged that British views on democratic values and human rights would be put across strongly "without wrecking the hotel room".



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Emad Ul Ameen, director (Human Resources), and Kafil HS Muyeed, director (New Business) of mobile phone operator GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, inaugurate a GP centre at Farmgate in Dhaka on Tuesday. Other senior officials were also present.



PHOTO: AKTEL

A debate competition titled 'AKTEL Debate Championship 2006' was held between July 8 and July 13 in Chittagong. Ahmad Bin Ismail, managing director of the mobile phone operator, among others, was present at the opening ceremony of the programme, which was sponsored by AKTEL and organised by Drishty Chittagong, an educational and cultural organisation.

WB chief urges G8 leaders to reach agreement in Doha talks

XINHUA, Addis Ababa

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz has sent a letter to the G8 leaders, urging them to reach an agreement in the Doha round table talks when they meet in Russia's St. Petersburg next week.

Wolfowitz, who is on an official visit in Ethiopia, Wednesday said the upcoming gathering of the G8 members and the planned outreach session with leaders from China, Brazil, India, South Africa, Mexico, the African Union and international organisations offers a unique opportunity to take advantage of to make urgently needed progress in the Doha trade talks.

"We can work to lift millions from poverty, boost developing country income, improve global market access and reduce taxpayer and consumer costs for all, or allow the whole effort to collapse, with harm to everyone," he said.

"The world's poorest people, the 1.2 billion living on less than one US dollar a day, are counting on your good intentions being transformed into decisive actions, just as last year when your resolute political leadership launched the historic Multilateral Debt Relief initiative," said Wolfowitz, who arrived here late Monday for a three-day official visit.



PHOTO: EBL

K Mahmood Sattar, managing director and chief executive officer of Eastern Bank Ltd (EBL), and Thomas H Kirker, managing director of Wachovia Bank NA, pose for photographs while signing a final credit service agreement on Tuesday in Dhaka. Under the deal, the EBL will send eligible forex instruments to Wachovia Bank for collection of proceeds from the drawee banks in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and other areas in the USA and from other stipulated areas.

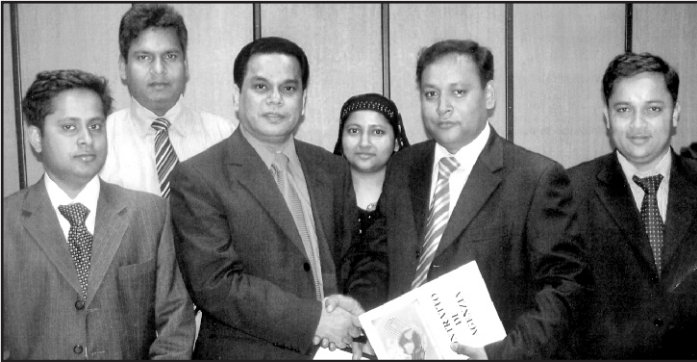


PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Kazi Masihur Rahman, deputy managing director of Prime Bank Limited, and Mohammad Idrish Farazi, Chairman of National Exchange Co of Italy, exchange documents after signing a remittance collection agreement in Rome recently. Under the deal, National Exchange Co will provide the expatriate Bangladeshis living in Italy with remittance services through Prime Bank.

CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (July 13, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank						
Sell			Buy			
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
70.3400	70.3700	USD	69.1200	69.0970	69.0509	
90.5698	90.6084	EUR	86.6350	86.6061	86.5484	
130.4244	130.4801	GBP	125.3560	125.3142	125.2307	
54.2251	54.2482	AUD	51.3838	51.3667	51.3324	
0.6196	0.6199	JPY	0.5955	0.5953	0.5949	
57.7504	57.7750	CHF	55.5359	55.5174	55.4804	
10.1644	10.1688	SEK	9.1947	9.1916	9.1855	
62.7252	62.7519	CAD	60.3721	60.3520	60.3117	
9.0669	9.0708	HKD	8.8690	8.8661	8.8602	
45.4833	45.5027	SGD	43.5813	43.5668	43.5378	
19.3077	19.3160	AED	18.6670	18.6607	18.6483	
18.9066	18.9146	SAR	18.2847	18.2787	18.2665	
12.5171	12.5225	DKK	11.3067	11.3029	11.2954	
239.8909	239.9953	KWD	237.2618	237.1851	237.0316	
Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar						
Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
46.075	60.245	103.91	37.930	6.2598	0.6183	3.66

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 13/7/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch							
J/1	Vera	Wheat(p)	Ukra	Jnship	1/6	13/7	545							
J/2	Caraka Jaya Niaga-III	Gl(log)	Yang	Sunshine	12/7	15/7	131							
J/3	Xuan Cheng	Gypsum/vsp	Fang	Cosco	17/6	16/7	643							
J/4	Huang Shan	Gl	Chin	Cosco	3/7	14/7	1448							
J/5	Eastern Fortis	Gl(pa/st)	Busa	Prog	5/7	15/7	1161							
J/6	Long Grow	Sugar	Tuti	Litmond	5/7	16/7	792							
J/7	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	5/7	15/7	407							
J/8	Yong Jiang	Gl	Inch	Cosco	5/7	17/7	2035							
J/9	Golden Star	Urea(BCIC)	Ruwai	PSAL	27/6	20/7	942							
J/10	Kota Petani	Col	Sing	Pil(Bd)	5/7	13/7	284							
J/11	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	APL	7/7	16/7	22							
J/12	Banglar Robi	Cont	Ptp	BSC	5/7	14/7	125							
Vessels due at outer anchorage														
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports									
Amalia	13/7	--	Seacom	Raw Sugar	--									
Tai	13/7	Dali	AHZ	Scraping	--									
Xpress Resolve	13/7	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col									
Pelagos	14/7	Tuti	Kaptai	Bunker	--									
Coastal Express	15/7	Kol	BSCA	Cont	Viza									
Qc Dignity	15/7	P.kel	QCCL	Cont	Sing									
Eastern Star	14/7	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing									
Midwest Angela-ii	14/7	--	Beeline	Rig Equip	--									
Phu My	15/7	P.kel	RSL	Cont	Sing									
Ja Vesta	15/7	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing									
Ultima	15/7	Sin	PSSL	Cont	Sing									
Tropical Star	15/7	--	Archangel	Towing Goryo-2	--									
Goryo-2ho	15/7	--	Archangel	Dead Vessel	--									
Tanker due														
Smooth Sea-3	14/7	Past	Jnship	CPO(RM/3)	--									
Tabtin	15/7	Dumai	SNCL	CPO(RM/3)	--									
Lotus	20/7	Jebel	OWSL	Crude Oil	--									
Vessels at Kutubdia														
Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival										
Outside port limit														
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A (7/7)										
Vessels at outer anchorage														
Vessels ready														
Kanok Naree	Wheat(p)	Turk	Litmond	21/6										
Emily-C	Cont	P.kel	Seacon	7/7										
Kota Rajin	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	7/7										
Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	8/7										
OEL Excellence	Cont	Col	PSSL	8/7										
Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	8/7										
Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	9/7										
Pacific Envoy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/7										
Yongxing	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	11/7										
QC Honour	Cont	Sing	QCCL	11/7										
Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	11/7										
Vessels not ready														
Evangelos-I	Wheat(p)	Ukra	Pol	5/7										
Continent-4	Sugar	Tuti	Cla	5/7										
Maris	C. Clink	Krabi	Litmond	6/7										
Al Kuwaitiah	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	7/7										
Tu Qiang	Gl	Vanc	Mutual	10/7										
Al Badiyah	HSD	Kuwa	MSTPL	10/7										
Port Lice	Gr. Slag	Japan	Everett	12/7										
Brave Royfal	C. Clink	Krabi	BRSL	22/7										

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

STOCK