

WTO chief urges India to help break impasse in trade talks

AFP, New Delhi

World Trade Organisation chief Pascal Lamy said he understood India's stand in global trade talks but asked New Delhi to look at the "bigger picture" and help break the impasse in the negotiations, a report said Friday.

The WTO director-general also said even if India pursued bilateral trading pacts with the United States and the European Union, it would still have to open up its markets for

their products and services, the Press Trust of India reported.

"(Indian) Commerce Minister Kamal Nath is perfectly legitimate in the assessment he is making," Lamy said when asked to comment on Nath's statement that there was "no offer" at the WTO talks which collapsed this week in Geneva.

"But so are those on the other side ... We must look at the bigger picture," the news agency quoted Lamy as telling a private Indian television network in an interview.

Talks ended in a stalemate after

the United States refused to make substantial cuts in farm subsidies, drawing strong reactions from developing nations such as India and Brazil and even the European Union.

Lamy told the NDTV network that while developed countries must make more concessions than developing nations, advanced developing countries such as India, China and Brazil should also do more than poor developing

countries.

"India must also look at the big picture given its size, potential and record in terms of modernisation," he said.

Reacting to reports that India would continue bilateral talks with the United States and was working on a Comprehensive Economic Cooperation Agreement with European Union, he said India would still have to give greater market access to

these countries.

Vladimir T Dzhunkovskiy, chargé d'affaires of the Embassy of the Russian Federation in Bangladesh, inaugurates 'Crystal Corner', an outlet for crystal products, at Agora shopping centre in Gulshan, Dhaka recently. Afroz Rahim, group chairman of Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Ltd, the owning company of Agora, and Samir Asaf, group CEO of the company, among others, were present.

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