

WTO breakthrough possible

Say negotiators

AP, Rio De Janeiro

Top US and Brazilian negotiators said a breakthrough was still possible for a global trade accord despite the collapse of World Trade Organization talks earlier this week.

Many meetings will be required between trade ministers from the 149-nation WTO to regain momentum on negotiations, but a deal could be sealed within five to seven months, U.S. Trade Representative Susan Schwab and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim said Saturday.

"We believe it is possible, but it won't fall from the sky," Amorim told

reporters after talking behind closed doors with Schwab for two hours in a hastily arranged meeting.

The talks broke down in Geneva after rich nations and poor nations failed to reach an accord amid deep divisions over farm subsidies in developed nations and increased market access in developing countries.

Amorim and Schwab said the United States and Brazil key players in the WTO talks are committed to finding ways to pursue a global treaty that would slash subsidies, increase market access and raise living standards in poor countries.

They said they will encourage

trade ministers across the planet to determine why the talks in Geneva broke down this week, and what can be done to get them back on track.

"Brazil and the United States are leaders in this effort to help revive the Doha round (of talks), and we see our meeting today as the beginning of a process that we hope our colleagues from other countries will also support," Schwab said.

Named after the Qatari capital where negotiations began five years ago, the Doha round is designed to boost the global economy by lowering trade barriers across all sectors, with particular

emphasis on helping poorer countries develop their economies through export growth.

Schwab added that Washington was not interested in negotiating a watered-down agreement that some have said might now be possible, preferring instead to press for a treaty with sweeping trade liberalization.

She and Amorim met two days after WTO chief Pascal Lamy urged the organization's members to avoid playing the "blame game" over the collapse of the Doha round.



PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK
ATM Harun-ur-Rashid Chowdhury, deputy executive president and head of Investment Wing of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, speaks at the 'Half-yearly Branch Managers' Conference-2006' of the bank's Bogra zone recently in Rajshahi. Other officials were also present.

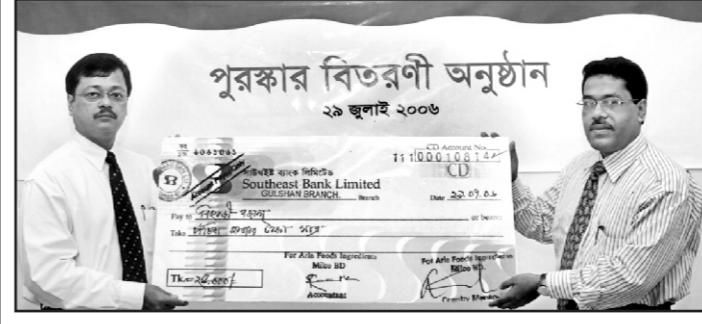


PHOTO: ISLAMI BANK
Ahmed Kabir, country manager of Arla Food Ingredients, hands over a gift cheque worth Tk 25,000 to the winner of 'DANO Vitakids World Cup Quiz Competition' at a prize giving ceremony on Saturday.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (July 30, 2006) forex rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates Exchange rate of some currencies

	BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US Dollar	70.35	69.10		
Euro	91.31	87.13	46.54	1.50
Pound	132.27	127.50	PAK Rupee	1.16
Australian Dollar	55.15	51.96	60.35	
Japanese Yen	0.62	0.60	Lankan Rupee	0.67
Swiss Franc	57.55	55.53	Thai Baht	1.84
Swedish Kroner	9.72	9.01	Malaysian Ringit	3.67
Canadian Dollar	62.72	60.42	USD forward rate against BDT	19.02
Hong Kong Dollar	9.07	8.88		
Singapore Dollar	45.04	43.57	Buy	Sell
UAE Dirham	19.31	18.66	1M	69.19
Saudi Riyal	18.91	18.28	2M	69.30
Danish Krone	12.56	11.34	3M	69.44
Kuwaiti Dinar	239.91	237.22	6M	69.59

* All currencies are quoted against BDT.
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction.

Local Market

FX: Local inter-bank FX market was subdued on Sunday because the international markets were closed for the weekend. There was limited amount of cross currency deals. The USD fell slightly against the Bangladeshi taka.

* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated.

Money Market

Money market was active on Sunday. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50-7.00 percent. Bangladesh Bank accepted one to seven day reverse repos worth Tk 11.53 billion (\$165.6 million) at interest rates between 6.25-6.5 percent.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 30/7/2006

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Emerald Coral	Gl(St.C)	Yang	Everett	27/7	30/7	3222
J/2	PortAlice	Gr. Slag	Japan	Everett	12/7	3/8	2136
J/3	Tu Qiang	Gl(Y.Pe/Lentils)	Vanc	Mutual	10/7	6/8	1400
J/4	Evangelos-L	Wheat(P)	Ukra	Pol	5/7	2/8	1374
J/6	Kranj	Gl	ANCL	21/7	2/8	943	
J/7	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Bdship	25/7	30/7	--
J/8	Merak	Gl(St.C)	Sing	ASA	27/7	30/7	2778
J/9	Pattaya Navee	Urea(Bcic)	Sing	PSAL	26/7	10/8	704
J/10	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	27/7	31/7	--
J/11	Emily-C	Cont	P.Kel	Seacon	29/7	2/8	150
J/12	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	APL	25/7	30/7	--
J/13	Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	PIL(Bd)	27/7	30/7	164
CCT/1	Esham	Cont	P.Kel	CEL	25/7	31/7	376

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Bijoy	30/7	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Lady East	31/7	Lumut	Litmond	C. Clink	Shah
Kotaria	31/7	Sing	PIL(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Power	31/7	Mong	Sigma	--	Sing
Yongxing	1/8	Sin	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya	1/8	Sing	PIL(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Xpress Manaslu	3/8	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Cec Honour	2/8	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Ultima	2/8	Sin	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Cec Pacific	1/8	Sing	Sunshine	P. Mat	--
Banga Borti	2/8	Pkl	Bdship	Cont	P. Kel
Yaad-E-Mostafa	2/8	Masieed	PML	Urea	Bcic
Amer	3/8	P.Kel	CEL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve	3/8	--	Seacon	Cont	Col
Am Nok Gang	6/8	--	PSAL	Urea(Bcic)	--

Tanker due

Name	1/8	Bilwa	Rainbow	CPO(RM/3)
Vessels at Kutubdia				

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Lotos	C. Oil	Jebel	OWSL	19/7
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A

Outside Port Limit

Name	C. Oil	Jebel	OWSL	19/7
Anodad Naree	Gl(Log)	Tuti	Mutual	28/7
Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	28/7
Qc Teal	Cont	Col	QCSL	29/7
Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	PIL(Bd)	29/7
Phu Tan	Cont	Col	PSSL	29/7
Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	PML	30/7

Vessels ready

Name	Wheat(P)	Ismir	Able	20/7
Darya Yog	C. Clink	Nant	Move	28/7
Angel-III	Gl(Y. Pe)	Vanc	USL	29/7

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Name	Ballast	Col	Bandhi	10/3
Banga Barita	--	--	BSCL	R/A(2/16)
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	Parana	Seacom
Amala	--	--	USL	R/A(27/7)
Navakun-21	--	--		

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

STOCK