

# Star BUSINESS

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## Asean wants trade talks re-start

AFP, CEBU, Philippines

"The leaders will call on major players to contribute a lot to this breakthrough. But at the same time, Asean will be prepared to make their own contributions," he told reporters.

The WTO suspended the so-called Doha Round in July after negotiations from six major parties, including the United States, European Union, Brazil and India, failed to reach agreement after five years of talks.

The round, launched in the Qatari capital in November 2001, is at an impasse, with Western and developing countries split on issues such as agricultural subsidies and market access.

Buencamino said Asean should send a clear message that it is "very much anxious to have the Doha Round restarted and negotiated to conclusion this year".

Asean leaders will hold their annual summit this weekend in the central province of Cebu, where it was postponed last month over what the government said were weather concerns.

WTO chief Pascal Lamy had been set to meet Asean leaders on the sidelines of the December summit but officials said he was not scheduled to come this time.

The bloc groups Brunei, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam.

They will also signal their own readiness to be more flexible to salvage the Doha Round of the talks, which came to a standstill last year mainly due to disputes over farm subsidies.

Philippine special trade representative Jose Antonio Buencamino said Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) leaders would call for a "breakthrough" in the World Trade Organisation negotiations.

## Asia-Pacific looks for energy alternatives

AFP, CEBU, Philippines

Southeast Asian nations hope to outline a sweeping plan this week for cutting dependence on Middle East oil, but analysts say any workable alternative is likely still decades away.

Energy security will be on the agenda when the ASEAN (Association of Southeast Asian Nations) bloc and its regional allies hold their annual summit, looking at everything from a communal gas pipeline network to biofuels made out of foodstuffs such as soybeans and corn.

Countries "are very aware that if they don't work together they are going to be very much vulnerable to events much farther away that could cause a crisis locally," said Dave Ernsberger from energy information giant Platts.

Turmoil in the Middle East, which led to historic oil prices that topped 78 dollars per barrel last year, is underscoring the need for a joint alternative -- but something like a regional gas grid takes decades to put in place.

"I think it will take Asean as much as 50 years to have an integrated gas network stretching from the Philippines to Indonesia," Ernsberger said.

"There has to be agreement about the conditions for using the pipeline, who gets to put gas through it and at what price," he said, adding that investors would be prepared to put in the money if and when those issues were settled.

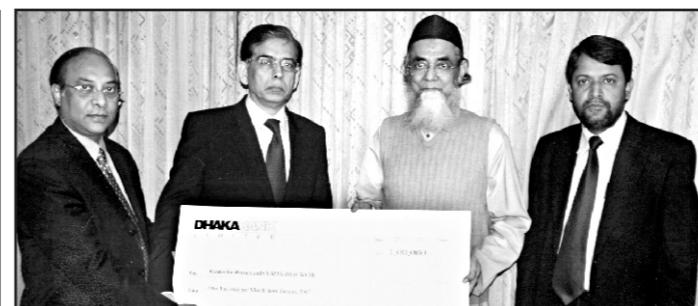


PHOTO: DHAKA BANK  
Dhaka Bank Ltd donated Tk12 lakh to Centre for Woman and Child Health (CWCH) at a function recently. CWCH Chairman MQK Talukder received the amount from Managing Director of the bank Shaded Noman.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 10/1/2007.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch.
J/1	Tug Solid-1	Ball Clay	Kuch	DNS	5/1	15/1	--
J/4	Dolphin-II	Gl(st.bil)	Viza	Sunshine	6/1	12/1	656
J/7	Natuztec	C.Clink	Sing	ANCL	3/1	15/1	1992
J/8	Changi Hope	Gl(hr.c)	Busa	Oil	9/1	14/1	1350
J/9	Dali	Cont	Coi	Seacom	31/12	12/1	209
J/10	Csv California	Cont	Col	PSSL	27/12	10/1	--
J/11	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/12	11/1	--

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Zhe Hai-315	10/1	Sing	Vega	Cont	Sing
Brave Royal	10/1	Kant	BRSL	C.Clink	--
Sunvazs	10/1	—	Seacom	Urea	--
Sakura	13/1	Ctg	OTL	Scraping	--
F.Jahan	11/1	Visa	BRSL	Slag	Royal
Kota Cahaya	12/1	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Xpress Manaslu	12/1	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Cape Bonavista	12/1	Pkel	Bdship	Cont	P.Kel
Pacific King	12/1	Zhan	Uniglobal	Fert	--
Splendor	12/1	Futon	ASA	Woodpulp	--
Zenovia	12/1	Novo	Mutual	Wheat(p)	--
Hoang Son	12/1	Yang	Gia	Gl(log)	--
Yong Yue-8	13/1	Sing	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Jin Cheng	13/1	—	Cosco	Gi	--

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Bw Havoil	11/1	Viza	MBL	Ammonia	K(A)
AlKuwaitah	11/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	
AlBarakat-1	12/1	Sing	MTCL	CPO	
Eternity	14/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1	--
Borak	14/1	Hald	FSA	Bitumen(m3)	--
Kadriah-ii	17/1	--	ECCL	Naphtha	
Jiping	Gl(y.Peas)	Vanc	Litmond	9/1	
Simba	Crude Oil	Jebel	Uniglobal		

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival

### Vessels at outer anchorage

#### Vessels ready

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

## STOCK



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Grameenphone has recently opened a Grameenphone Centre at Purana Paltan in Dhaka. Yasir Azman, head of Dhaka Region, and DM Khaled Osman, head of operations, GPC Franchise Grameenphone jointly inaugurated the centre.