

Star BUSINESS

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Schwab to hold talks with Lamy amid hope of Doha deal

AFP, Geneva

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab will meet the director general of the World Trade Organisation, Pascal Lamy, on Friday amid speculation that a deal is close over the stalled Doha round of trade negotiations.

Schwab will discuss the current impasse with Lamy, the US mission in Geneva confirmed to AFP, following talks in Washington earlier this week with EU trade commissioner Peter Mandelson.

Mandelson expressed his

optimism a deal was reachable following these latest talks, saying: "There is fresh hope for the Doha Round and we now have to build on that work."

Schwab is expected to continue her discussions with other trade officials at the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos, held between January 23-28.

The WTO suspended the round in July last year after negotiators from six major countries, including the United States, EU, Brazil and India, failed to reach agreement

after five years of talks.

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

Developing countries want lower tariffs on their agricultural exports to US and European markets while industrialised nations seek greater access to developing and emerging nations for their industrial services and goods.

Infosys Q3 profit rises

REUTERS, Bangalore

Infosys Technologies Ltd, India's second-largest software exporter, posted a 51.5 percent rise in third-quarter profit as it won more business in Europe, but its shares dropped as the market had hoped for better results and a stronger outlook.

Bangalore-based Infosys, the first Indian firm to join the Nasdaq 100 Index, raised its 2006/07 earnings per share forecast to 66.63 rupees before exceptions, up 48 percent on 2005/06 and better than a 66 rupee/share forecast made in October, but said a stronger rupee was hurting operating margins.

Infosys shares fell as much as 3.2 percent in early trade, and by 0600 GMT were down 2 percent at 2,125 rupees in a slightly firmer Mumbai market.

China becomes No 2 vehicle market

AP, Beijing

China surged past Japan to become the world's No. 2 vehicle market after the United States last year as car purchases by newly affluent drivers jumped 37 percent, the Chinese auto industry association said Thursday.

The announcement highlighted China's lightning evolution from a "bicycle kingdom" into a major auto market where foreign producers are racing to open factories and target a growing urban middle class.

Struggling U.S. automakers General Motors and Ford have gotten a boost from double-digit sales growth in China and fledgling Chinese manufacturers are starting to export their own cars, trucks and SUVs.



PHOTO: SILVA PHARMACEUTICALS

The annual sales conference 2007 of Silva Pharmaceuticals Ltd was held in Dhaka yesterday. Among others, Shibli Mirza, deputy managing director, AR Hasan Mirza, director (operation), Mollick Mahmood Hossain, director (marketing and tech operations), and Mahmud Hossain, marketing manager, were present.



PHOTO: CITY BANK LTD

Deen Mohammad, chairman of The City Bank Limited, speaks at the bank managers' conference-2007 at a hotel in Dhaka yesterday. Directors Rafiqul Islam Khan and Rajibul Hoque Chowdhury and Managing Director (current charge) DH Choudhury were also present.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (January 11, 2007) forex trading 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	70.83	69.38	
Euro	93.21	88.37	Indian rupee 44.38 1.58
Pound	138.53	132.47	Pak rupee 60.98 1.15
Australian dollar	56.86	52.88	Lankan rupee 108.45 0.65
Japanese yen	0.60	0.58	Thai baht 36.02 1.95
Swiss franc	57.83	54.66	Malaysian ringgit 3.52 19.94
Swedish kroner	10.49	9.45	
Canadian dollar	61.35	58.50	
Hong Kong dollar	9.11	8.88	USD forward rate against BDT
Singapore dollar	47.11	44.97	Buy Sell
UAE dirham	19.44	18.74	
Saudi riyal	19.04	18.35	1M 69.48 70.95
Danish kroner	12.87	11.56	2M 69.60 71.16
Kuwaiti dinar	241.66	238.22	3M 69.75 71.38
			6M 70.20 72.12

*All currencies are quoted against BDT

*Rates may vary based on nature of transaction



SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 11/1/2007

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	1279
J/4	Dolphin-ii	GI(St.bil)	Viza	Sunshine	6/1	13/1	1456
J/5	Oriental River	GI(St. Pa)	P. Kel	Prog	10/1	14/1	710
J/6	Malaysia Star-1	Cont	Tanj	QCSL	31/12	17/1	-
J/7	Natzucus	C. Clink	ANCL	3/1	14/1	5005	
J/8	Changi Hope	GI(H.c)	Busa	Oil	9/1	13/1	4629
J/9	Dali	Cont	Col	Seacom	31/12	13/1	272
J/10	Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	1/1	14/1	-
J/11	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/12	11/1	-
J/12	Kota Rakayet	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	30/12	12/1	357
J/13	Sea Master One	Cont	Sing	PML	1/1	13/1	-
CCT/1	Martha Russ	Cont	Sing	QCSL	4/1	14/1	-
CCT/2+3	Eagle Pioneer	Cont	Sing	CT	29/12	13/1	478

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
F Jahan	11/1	Visa	Brsl	Slag	Royal
Kota Cahaya	12/1	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Sing	Col
Xpress Manasi	12/1	Col	Seacom	Cont	P. Kel
Cape Bonavista	12/1	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	-
Pacific King	13/1	Zhan	Uniglobal	Fert	-
Splendor	12/1	Futon	ASA	Woodpulp	-
Zenovia	12/1	Novo	Mutual	Wheat(p)	-
Hoang Son	12/1	Yang	Gle	Gif(log)	-
Yong Yue-8	13/1	Sing	Seacom	Cont	Sing
Jin Cheng	13/1	--	Cosco	GI	-
Banga Bonik	15/1	Cbo	Bardhi	Cont	Col
Sakura	15/1	Ctg	OTL	Scraping	-
Spar Cetus	14/1	Sin	Rainbow	R. Sugar	10000 Wlt
Coastal Express	14/1	Kol	BSC	Cont	Kol

Tanker due

AI Barakat-1	12/1	Sing	MTCL	CPO
Eternity	14/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1
Borak	13/1	Hald	FSA	Bitumen(RM/3)
Kadriah-ii	17/1	--	ECSL	Naphtha
Al Deerah	14/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	Hsd/sko
Southern Orchis	16/1	Viz	Jardine	L. Oil
Kadriah-ii	17/1	--	ECSL	Naphtha

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside Port Limit

Wira Kencis	--	--	IBSA	R/A (4/1)
Pacific Champion	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	3/1/2007
Sea Drill-6	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	8/1
Gulf Drill-9	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	3/1
Pacific Steel	Pro. Equip	--	IBSA	8/1
Jin Ping	GI(Y. Peas)	Vanc	Litmond	9/1
Simba	Crude Oil	Jebel	Uniglobal	1/1

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

STOCK