

Star BUSINESS

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Next few weeks 'crucial' to strike WTO deal

Says Blair

AFP, London

British Prime Minister Tony Blair said on Tuesday the next few weeks will be "particularly crucial" for a deal on the stalled Doha round of World Trade Organization talks.

However, Blair said that he was more optimistic than before.

"I'm not saying it's going to happen, but I am more optimistic than I was," Blair told his monthly press conference in London. "There is an appreciation now of how important this is."

Blair said a deal would do "an

immense amount for the health of the world economy".

He said his rising optimism was based on intensive talks worldwide, including in Washington involving US President George W. Bush, the European Commission and German Chancellor Angela Merkel as well as those with Brazilians, Indians and others.

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The WTO suspended the round

Africa the big loser if Doha talks fail: Lamy

AFP, Undated

Africa must change its stance to prevent the failure of the Doha Round of trade opening talks or face being the big loser, World Trade Organisation (WTO) chief Pascal Lamy said Tuesday.

"If we conclude this round, there will be many winners. If the negotiations fail, no doubt who will be the biggest loser: Africa. We all know that. This is the reality," said Lamy.

Africa states must "alter their position in negotiations to avoid a return to deadlock," added Lamy during a visit to the African Union's headquarters in Addis Ababa for talks with trade ministers from the continent.

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However recent bilateral talks between Lamy and senior US officials and European Union Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson have raised hopes that a deal can be salvaged.

Discussions will also continue at a ministerial meeting on January 27 on the sidelines of the World Economic Forum in the Swiss ski resort of Davos.

The AU trade ministers are expected to adopt a common line on Doha after their talks with Lamy but the organisation's trade commissioner indicated the bloc was not willing to back down on its "just and legitimate demands".



PHOTO: FIRST SECURITY BANK

The 'Business Conference-2007' of First Security Bank Ltd was held on Saturday in Dhaka. Managing Director of the bank AAM Zakaria presided over the meeting while other senior officials were present.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 16/1/2007

| Berth No. | Name of vessels | Cargo | L. Port call | Local agent | Dof arrival | Leaving | Import disch |
|-----------|-------------------|-----------|--------------|-------------|-------------|---------|--------------|
| J/1 | Tug Solid-1 | Ball Clay | Kuch | DNS | 5/1 | 19/1 | — |
| J/2 | Hoang Son | Gl(Log) | Yang | Gla | 13/1 | 17/1 | 1961 |
| J/3+2 | Hawk-1 | Wheat(p) | Ukra | USL | 5/1 | 24/1 | 2627 |
| J/4 | Bangler Doot | — | Sant | SSST | 1/1 | 17/1 | — |
| J/7 | Lilac Ace | Vehi | P. Kel | Everett | 14/1 | 16/1 | 1163 |
| J/8 | Cape Henry | Cont | Sing | APL | 5/1 | 19/1 | 197 |
| J/9 | Jin Cheng (liner) | Gl | Inch | Cosco | 14/1 | 19/1 | 2787 |
| J/11 | Pac-Palawan | Cont | Pasi | CEL | 6/1 | 18/1 | — |
| J/12 | Kota Ratna | Cont | Sing | Pil(Bd) | 3/1 | 17/1 | 244 |
| J/13 | Qc Pintal | Cont | Col | QCSL | 5/1 | 17/1 | 117 |
| CCT/1 | Esham | Cont | Malal | CEL | 3/1 | 16/1 | — |
| CCT/2 | Banga Bodor | Cont | P. Kel | Baridhi | 3/1 | 17/1 | 187 |

Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L. Port call | Local agent | Type of cargo | Loading ports |
|--------------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Sarim | 16/1 | Mala | Litmond | C.Clink | — |
| Maritime Peace | 17/1 | Niko | Seacom | Mop | — |
| Inca Maiden | 16/1 | Sing | Vehi | 8 Pkgs | — |
| Mare Hibemum | 17/1 | Pkel | Seacon | Cont | Sing |
| Rio Lawrence | 17/1 | Sing | QCSSL | Cont | Pip |
| Eagle Progress | 17/1 | Sing | Everbest | Cont | Sing |
| Ocen | 17/1 | Viet | Ahz | Scraping | — |
| Vtc Light | 17/1 | Sfax | SSST | TSP | — |
| Maritime Chiangmai | 20/1 | Tarj | BSL | C.Clink | — |
| Jon Jin-2 | 18/1 | Fang | Unique | Fert | Tsp/dapa Ash |
| Csv California | 18/1 | CBO | PSSL | Cont | Col |
| Vinashin Mariner | 19/1 | Sing | PSSL | Cont | Sing |
| Phoenix | 18/1 | Pip | PSSL | Cont | Sing |
| Banga Biraj | 18/1 | Sing | Bdship | Cont | Sing |
| Markovo | 18/1 | Long | PSL | Urea | Bcic |

Tanker due

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L. Port call | Local agent | Type of cargo | Loading ports |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-------------|---------------|---------------|
| Bow Plata | 16/1 | Kaki | RSA | CPO(RM/4/3) | |
| Kadriah-ii | 17/1 | Sing | ECSL | Naphtha | |
| GulfAhmadi | 17/1 | Kuwa | MSTPL | HSD/MS | — |
| Southern Orchis | 20/1 | Viza | Jardine | L.Oil(DOJ/7) | |
| Victory Prima | 19/1 | Sing | Usline | CPO(RM/8) | |
| Pacific Crystal | 21/1 | Kuwa | MSTPL | HSD/JP-1 | |

Vessels at Kutubdia

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last Port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|-----------------|-------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Wira Kenis | — | — | IBSA | R/A(4/1) |

| Name of vessels | Cargo | Last Port call | Local agent | Date of arrival |
|------------------|------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Pacific Champion | Pro. Equip | — | IBSA | R/A(12/1) |
| Sea Drill-6 | Pro. Equip | — | IBSA | 8/1 |
| Gulf Drill-9 | Pro. Equip | — | IBSA | 3/1 |
| Cs Toppfer | — | — | IBSA | R/A(11/1) |
| Pacific Steel | — | — | IBSA | R/A(15/1) |
| Zenovia | Wheat(p) | Novo | Mutual | 12/1 |

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

STOCK