

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.

He said much of his work schedule was devoted to efforts toward a deal because "next few weeks, I think, will be particularly crucial".

The WTO suspended the round in July last year after negotiators 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.



PHOTO: AGRICULTURAL MARKETING COMPANY

Property Lifts, an enterprise of PRAN-RFL Group, and Rupayan Housing Estate recently signed an agreement under which Property Lifts will supply the housing estate all the 28 lifts for its Rupayan Town project. Property Lifts Chairman Mahtabuddin Ahmed and Rupayan Housing Chairman L.A. Mukul were also present.

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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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.

CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (January 16, 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	70.50	69.05		
Euro	92.57	87.75	Indian rupee	44.18 1.58
Pound	140.03	133.93	Pak rupee	61.15 1.14
Australian dollar	56.61	52.66	Lankan rupee	108.45 0.64
Japanese yen	0.60	0.57	Thai baht	36.04 1.94
Swiss franc	57.37	54.22	Malaysian ringgit	3.51 19.90
Swedish kroner	10.49	9.44		
Canadian dollar	61.35	58.50	USD forward rate against BDT	
Hong Kong dollar	9.06	8.83	Buy	Sell
Singapore dollar	46.82	44.70	1 M	69.15 70.62
UAE dirham	19.35	18.65	2 M	69.27 70.83
Saudi riyal	18.95	18.27	3 M	69.42 70.05
Danish kroner	12.78	11.49	6 M	69.86 71.77
Kuwaiti dinar	240.52	237.13		
Local Market				
FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Tuesday. The demand for USD remained stable and there was a steady volume of cross currency transactions. The USD remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.				
Money Market				
Money market was active on Tuesday. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50-7.00 percent.				
International Market				
The euro held firm against a stalling dollar on Tuesday ahead of the release of the German ZEW business sentiment survey as the euro area's biggest economy has been a key driver of growth in recent months. The euro was up 0.2 percent against the dollar, and against the yen the single currency the dollar, and against the yen the single currency was up 0.1 percent. Sterling was steady against the dollar, while the dollar was also flat against the yen. The yen was still stuck near a 13-month low against the dollar reached last week despite market expectations for a Bank of Japan interest rate rise later this week. Analysts said that a rate rise to 0.5 percent was unlikely to give the yen much of a lift as it would still be a low yielding currency compared with the euro, the dollar of sterling.				

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	Dt of 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	Banglar Doot	--	Sant	SSST	1/1	17/1	--
J/7	LilacAce	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	Pli(Bd)	3/1	17/1	244
J/13	Oc Pintail	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	Nyk	Vehi	8 Pkgs		
Mare Hibernum	17/1	P.kel	Seacon	Cont	Sing		
Rio Lawrence	17/1	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Ptp		
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		
Csav California	18/1	CBO	PSSL	Cont	Col		
Vinashin Mariner	19/1	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing		
Phoenix	18/1	Ptp	PSSL	Cont	Sing		
Banga Biraj	18/1	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing		
Markovo	18/1	Long	PSL	Urea	Bcic		
Tanker due							
Bow Plata	16/1	Kaki	RSA	CPO(RM/4/3)	--		
Kadriah-II	17/1	Sing	ECSL	Naptha	--		
GulfAhmadi	17/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/MS	--		
Southern Orchis	20/1	Viza	Jardine	L. Oil(DOJ/7)	--		
Victory Prima	19/1	Sing	Uslne	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			
Outside Port Limit							
Wirra Kenis	--	--	IBSA	R/A(4/1)			
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 Toppler	--	--	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