

G7 calls WTO deal 'imperative'

AFP, Washington

The world's seven richest nations said Friday a WTO deal to tear down global trade barriers was "imperative," following a measure of progress achieved by leading players at talks in India.

"We believe that a successful conclusion of the Doha Development round is imperative," Group of Seven finance ministers said in a statement, referring to the World Trade Organization's stalled effort to liberalize commerce.

"We are committed to resisting protectionist sentiment. Substantially lowering tariffs and other barriers is essential to spur new growth in global trade and reduce poverty," the G7 ministers said after their latest talks.

The ministers said they believed that by intensifying our work, we can reach convergence and thus contribute to concluding the round by the end of 2007."

The Delhi meeting marked the first time the leading trade powers had assembled for talks since the Doha discussions were suspended last July amid US and European resistance to deeper cuts to their farm subsidies.

"We must work and move together - and we must do so soon - to realize the full potential of the Doha round," US Trade Representative Susan Schwab said, calling on India to take the lead in slashing its onerous industrial tariffs.

"The nature of India's engagement will determine that of many other developing countries," she

"All the major players will do

their best to avoid failure," he said.

The outright collapse of the Doha round would be "bad news" for the world economy, Almunia added, warning of the dangers of "further protectionist threats" arising.

Late Thursday after two days of talks in New Delhi, trade ministers from the United States, the EU, India, Brazil, Australia and Japan expressed cautious optimism about clinching a WTO breakthrough this year.

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Taxman hits Bush for \$186,000

AFP, Washington

Even the most powerful man in the world can't escape the taxman, and US President George W. Bush and his wife Laura had to cough up 186,000 dollars in 2006, the White House said Friday.

But Bush can perhaps take some comfort from the fact that he has to pay less than half the amount demanded from his notoriously wealthier Vice President Dick Cheney.

Bush must pay some 186,378 dollars in taxes for 2006 on an taxable income of some 642,905 dollars which included his salary of about 400,000 dollars as well as investment incomes, the White House said in a statement.

Cheney, and his wife Lynne, declared some 1,614,862 dollars in earned income, which included the vice president's government salary of 208,575 dollars as well as royalties from his wife's books and an advance for a forthcoming novel.

Their combined tax bill came to some 413,326 dollars.

The Bushs' tax returns also showed they donated some 78,100 dollars to churches, charitable organizations and the volunteer firefighters in Crawford, Texas, where their family ranch is located.

Google buys DoubleClick for \$3.1b

AFP, San Francisco

A bidding war between Google and Microsoft ended on Friday with Google agreeing to pay 3.1 billion dollars to add online advertising firm DoubleClick to its Internet money-making arsenal.

Google's stock price dipped slightly in after hours trading as investors wrestled with whether its victorious bid resulted in it overpaying for DoubleClick.

"After the negative press that followed the YouTube purchase it looks like investors are looking at this acquisition more carefully. Maybe buying DoubleClick is strategic, but it is not clear they are not wasting money."



PHOTO: BANGLALINK
Former Speaker Advocate Abdul Hamid inaugurates a Banglalink Point on Station Road in Kishoreganj recently. Senior officials and regional team of the mobile phone operator were present.



PHOTO: HEIDELBERGCMENT
Participants of a training programme for engineers pose for photographs in Dhaka recently. ScanCement Bhalo Basha Club, a concern of Heidelbergcement, organised the training programme.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (April 15, 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	69.05	68.05		
Euro	95.09	90.58	42.44	1.62
Pound	138.70	133.56	60.69	1.13
Australian dollar	58.70	55.67	109.05	0.63
Japanese yen	0.59	0.57	32.59	2.10
Swiss franc	57.34	55.49	3.44	19.92
Swedish kroner	10.04	9.32		
Canadian dollar	61.21	591.7	USD forward rate against BDT	
Hong Kong dollar	8.85	8.70	Buy	Sell
Singapore dollar	46.04	44.66		
UAE dirham	18.96	18.39	1M	68.14
Saudi riyal	18.56	18.00	2M	68.27
Danish kroner	13.13	11.82	3M	68.41
Kuwaiti dinar	235.42	233.75	6M	68.60
			70.05	

Local Market

FX: Local inter-bank FX market was subdued on Sunday as the international market was closed for weekend.

Money market was active on Sunday. Call money rate remained almost unchanged and ranged between 6.75 and 7.00 percent compared to 6.90-7.10 percent the previous day.

Bangladeshi taka.

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STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 15/4/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J2	Khank	Urea(Bicic)	Ruwa	Asa	13/4	18/4	1119
J3	Asrar-A-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki	Cla	1/4	-	685
J4	Ju Yong Guan	GI	S.Hai	Cosco	7/4	15/4	1207
J5	Bunga Mas-II	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	8/4	17/4	167
J6	Pac Palawan	Cont	Pasi	Cel	10/4	15/4	-
J7	Jkal	Urea(Bicic)	Damm	Litmond	12/4	20/4	1321
J8	OEL Freedom	Cont	Sing	Sing	9/4	15/4	-
J9	Mir Damad	Cont	Chen	Barihi	12/4	15/4	71
J10	Banga Bodor	Cont	P.Kel	Barihi	11/4	17/4	30
J11	CSAV California	Cont	Chenn	Pssl	12/4	17/4	78
J12	Bangar Shikha	Cont	Bsc	Sing	11/4	16/4	126

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Cape Spencer	15/4	P.Kel	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Tug Century Star-1	15/4	Viza	Mutual	Towing Barge: Star-3002	
Barge: Star-3002	15/4	Viza	Mutual	G(St. Bil)	
Xpress Manasu	16/4	Col	Seacon	Cont	L/Col
Brave Royal	16/4	Kanta	Brsi	C.Clink	--
New Baroness	15/4	Ukra	Angelic	Wheat(P)	5000 W/Lt
Banga Lanka	15/4	Col	Barihi	72Cont	Mong/Cbo
Banga Borti	16/4	P.Kel	Barihi	Cont	Pkl
Banga Bortal	16/4	Sin	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Eagle Pride	16/4	Sing	Ct	Cont	Sing
Ja Vista	16/4	P.Kl	Vega	Cont	Sing
Jesco View	16/4	P.Kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Pacific Sun	16/4	Viza	Mov	Slag(Bulk)	--
Kota Karina	16/4	P.Kel	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Phoenix	19/4	Col	Pssl	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

AI Deerah	16/4	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/Ms
Ama-3	17/4	Dumai	Wth	Cpo(Rm/3/4/8)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival

Outside port limit

Sea Drill-6 (Rig)	Pro. Equip	--	Ibsa	8/1
Gulf Drill-9 (Barge)	Pr. Equip	--	Ibsa	3/1
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(11/4)
Pacific Steel	P. Equip	--	Ibsa	R/A(31/3)
Pacific Champion	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(13/4)
Cherry-II	Crude Oil	Rast	Urjiglobal	3/4

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Rhoneborg	Cont	Ptp	Qcls	12/04

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