

Final push needed on trade talks: WTO chief

AFP, Sydney

Differences in efforts to spur global trade talks are narrowing but political will is needed to push them to a conclusion, World Trade Organisation chief Pascal Lamy said Thursday.

Speaking at a business forum in Sydney, the WTO director general said that negotiations on agriculture which started in Geneva on Monday were progressing well, and talks on cutting industrial tariffs would start in two weeks.

Lamy said he hoped a common position on the thorny issues of farm subsidies and market access for industrial goods could be reached by November.

If so, they would clear a major hurdle which has stalled the so-called Doha Round of global negotiations to reduce trade barriers.

"The Doha talks are not any more in an impasse. They were in a deadlock last June. Since then, the machinery of negotiations has restarted," he told the forum on the sidelines of an Asia-Pacific

Chinese President Hu Jintao

Economic Cooperation (Apec) meeting.

"If you compare the situation today to what it was a year ago, the ranges on the table are much narrower than they used to be. We're not yet there. I'm not saying it's done," he said.

"I would be optimistic if I will say it will be done, but what I am saying is that it is doable, provided the necessary political energy surrounds the system."

CHINA CALLS FOR 'SINCERITY' FROM DEVELOPED NATIONS

Another report adds: China demanded developed nations show "sincerity" in attempts to revive global trade talks Thursday, countering calls from the United States and Australia for Beijing to break the deadlock.

Despite the finger-pointing, World Trade Organisation (WTO) director general Pascal Lamy said he was cautiously optimistic a deal was possible if world leaders remained committed to success.

Hu, in Sydney for a summit at the weekend of the 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, told a meeting of business leaders that talks were at a crucial stage.

"We must say no to trade protectionism, eliminate trade barriers and move the Doha Round towards a comprehensive and balanced outcome at an early date," Hu said.

The WTO talks, launched six years ago in the Qatari capital Doha, have stalled over differences on farm subsidies and import tariffs between rich and poor nations.

While he expressed strong support for the need to finalise the WTO's Doha Round of negotiations, Hu laid the blame for the failure to find a breakthrough on rich nations.

"The major developed members of the WTO should make due efforts for the successful conclusion of the negotiation by demonstrating more sincerity and flexibility on key issues such as reducing agricultural tariffs and subsidies," he said.

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years ago in the Qatari capital Doha, have stalled over differences on farm subsidies and import tariffs between rich and poor nations.

US Trade Representative Susan Schwab said the Doha Round was high on the agenda at the meeting between Bush and Hu.

"China clearly recognises the critical stake that it has in a healthy global rules-based trading system," she told reporters.

Schwab played down expectations that Bush was set to announce concessions aimed at securing a breakthrough ahead of the Apec meeting, saying the United States was prepared to be flexible but expected the same from others.

"There were (countries) that in July were making noises that made us very uncomfortable and very nervous about the prospects for the Doha Round," she said.

"That includes countries like Argentina and Brazil and India and a few others."



PHOTO: ACI

ACI Ltd of Bangladesh and Winall Hi-Tech Seed Company Ltd of China have signed an agreement on hybrid rice seed production. Under the deal, Winall will provide technical and other supports for ACI to produce quality hybrid rice seed. Arif Dowla, managing director of ACI Ltd, FH Ansarey, executive director (Agri-business), and Jiang San Qiao, general manager of Winall Hi-Tech Seed Company, were present at the signing ceremony on Sunday.



PHOTO: JCI BANGLADESH

JCI (Junior Chamber International) Bangladesh Dhaka North recently organised a session on 'Key to enhance competitiveness in the local financial market', which was presented by General Manager and Country Representative of Mashreqbank Yusuf S Saadat. President of JCI-B Dhaka North Farzana Chowdhury was also present at the session.

Siemens wins Tk 57.6 cr power project in Khulna

Siemens Consortium Gallamari Project (SCGP), a joint venture between Siemens AG, Germany, and Siemens Bangladesh Ltd, recently own a government order for Tk 57.6 crore substation project in Khulna.

In this regard, SCGP has signed a contract with Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB) last month.

Under the deal, SCGP will design, supply and install 132/33 kV Gas Insulated Switchgear (GIS) substation at Gallamari in Khulna with associated transmission line and extension of the existing 230/132 kV Khulna South Substation on turnkey basis, says a press release.

"(China) will continue to transform the pattern of trade growth, increase imports, and strengthen protection of intellectual property rights to ensure coordinated and balanced growth of import and export and contribute to the sustainable growth of global trade."

Hu is not the first Chinese government member to pledge more measures to reduce the trade surplus, and the Asian giant has already introduced some policies, including reductions in tax incentives for exporters.

Even so, the trade surplus keeps growing and reached a staggering 136.8 billion dollars in



PHOTO: SIEMENS

Siemens Consortium Gallamari Project, a joint venture between Siemens AG, Germany, and Siemens Bangladesh Ltd, recently entered into an agreement with Power Grid Company of Bangladesh (PGCB). Under the deal, Siemens will construct a Tk 57.6 crore power project in Khulna. Mohammed Salim, company secretary of PGCB, Hubertus Boesten, director of Power Division of Siemens Bangladesh, and Ursula Wolf, commercial project manager of High Voltage Substations of Siemens AG, signed the deal.

STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 6/9/2007							
Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/3	Tay Bac-18	Rice(g)	Kaki	Hsa	3/9	8/9	330
J/4	Tay Son-1	Gif(hrc)	Sing	Jf	3/9	6/9	2611
J/5	Sunvaz-1	Urea(bic)	Sing	Seacom	2/9	12/9	241
J/6	Cape Henry	Cont	Col	Apl	5/9	9/9	-
J/7	Hunjiang	Gi	Thai	Cosco	5/9	11/9	800
J/8	Asrar-e-mostafa	Rice(g)	Kaki	Cla	1/9	10/9	251
J/9	Oel Singapore	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	4/9	7/9	283
J/11	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Bandhi	4/9	7/9	99
J/12	Kota Raja	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	4/9	8/9	297

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
OEL Freedom	6/9	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik	6/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Asrar-e-mostafa	6/9	Kohsi	Pol	C. Clink	--
Sunny Falcon	7/9	Basu	Litmond	Urea(bic)	--
Arctic Night	6/9	Viza	Kship	Scraping	--
Golden Wish	6/9	Sing	Ssst	Wheat(g)	8000 Wt/
Kissama	7/9	Kol	Bsca	Cont	L/para
Dali	7/9	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Api Lilac	8/9	Sing	Api	Cont	Sing
Ataraxia	9/9	Chenn	Asa	Gif(hr Stc)	--
Brave Royal	7/9	Krabi	Brsi	C. Clink	--
Hu Hui	7/9	Qingang	Uml	Urea(bic)	--
Ks Glory	7/9	Chin	Asl	C. Clink	--
Eid-a-mostafa	8/9	Kaki	Cla	Rice(g)	--
Samarga	8/9	Sing	Anc	Scraping	--
Energy Falcon	9/9	Indo	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Vien Dong-2	8/9	Sing	Prog	Gif(st,pa)	--
Hansa London	10/9	Pkl	Pssl	Cont	Cbo

Tanker due

Smooth Sea-4	6/9	Mala	Usl	Cpol	Rm/4
Champion Star	7/9	Braz	Usl	Csos(rm/3)	21000 Wt/
Al Sabiyah	7/9	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

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

Onozo	Crude Oil	Jebel	Uniglobal	23/8
Bangler Jyoti	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/a (5/9)
Maritime Newanda	Wheat	Cana	Rainbow	3/9
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/a (4/9)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

N IL

Vessels not ready

Santa Suria	C. Clink	Krabai	Asl	3/9
Khadijah	Cpo	Dumai	Mtcl	5/9

Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

Borak	--	--	Fsa	R/a (4/8)
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Vessels not entering

Sea Crown	C. Clink	Sing	Saraf	22/8
Tug Niko Maru	--	Mala	Oil	25/8
Atadru	Wheat(p)	Novo	Angelic	23/8
Ali Murza	G. Slag	Viza	Saraf	23/8
Pan Express	C. Clink	Kohsi	Asl	26/8
Sarim	C. Clink	Krabi	Litmond	28/8

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