

WTO deal still elusive as texts fail to break deadlock

The WTO has finally created unity among its 152 members... but unfortunately for head Pascal Lamy, the only thing all states agree on is that the prospect of a new trade deal is still as far away as ever.

Lamy said the publication of new texts on agriculture and industrial goods -- key sticking points for nearly seven years of tortuous negotiations -- clarified remaining obstacles to an agreement in the Doha trade round.

"These revised negotiating texts illustrate clearly where convergence lies among the WTO members... we are getting closer to our end game," Lamy said.

The round was launched in the Qatar capital in November 2001 with the aim of reaching a deal by 2004.

But it has foundered ever since, mainly over disputes between developed and developing countries on agricultural subsidies and industrial tariffs.

DSE benchmark index hits 3200 pts

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The benchmark index of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) yesterday crossed 3200 points for the first time, closing at 3207.89 points, led by banking, investment and pharmaceutical shares.

The DSE General Index rose by 39.9 points, or 1.25 percent, compared to the previous day's closing.

The DSE All Share Price Index also increased by 33.12 points, or 1.23 percent, to 2716 points.

In the first half hour of yesterday's trading, the market gained around 38 points. The market remained stable with the market gaining few points at the day's closing and ended up with the main index crossing 3200 points level.

A total of 2,34,40,914 shares worth Tk 379.98 crore changed hands on the premier bourse.

Of the issues traded, 147 advanced, 86 declined and four remained unchanged.

ECB fetes its first 10 years

AFP, Frankfurt

The European Central Bank invites the public this week to celebrate the bank's first 10 years before hosting eurozone finance ministers at a gala event before getting back down to business.

An open house is planned Sunday to give eurozone residents a peek at where monetary policy is set for 320 million people, before Eurogroup ministers later this week to periodically disputed ECB monetary guidance, and a rate setting meeting Thursday at which the bank is also to release its latest inflation and growth forecasts.

The bank is certain to leave the main eurozone lending rate steady at 4.0 percent in light of inflation which snapped back to a record 3.6 percent in May while economic indicators sent mixed messages on growth.

The CSE Selective Categories Index increased by 1.07 percent to 5933.3 points, while the CSE All Share Price Index rose by 1.07 percent to 9199.2 points.

A total of 46,44,360 shares worth Tk 55.43 crore changed hands on the port city bourse. Of the issues traded, 82 gained and 55 declined with 147 remaining unchanged.

AB Bank launches new products

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

AB Bank yesterday launched a basket of ten new SME and liability products. Of the new products, seven are for Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) sector and the rest are liability products.

The products are Shathi Reen, Prasar Reen, Uddog Reen, Aparajita Reen, Gati Reen, Digan Reen, and Chhoto Pujj Reen, according to a press statement.

President and Managing Director of the bank Kaiser A. Chowdhury launched the products at a function in Dhaka. Deputy managing directors of the bank Niaz Habib, Shamim A. Chowdhury and Faruq M. Ahmed were also present at the function.



Apollo Hospitals Dhaka and East West University have recently entered into a corporate agreement under which the hospital will provide medical services at special rate and other corporate benefits to the university's teachers and staff.



Youngbok Jo, deputy managing director, Arif Khan, general manager, HM Ziaul Hoque Khan, chief financial officer, and other senior executives of Industrial Development Leasing Company (IDLC) of Bangladesh Ltd are seen celebrating the company's 24th year of operations recently.



Md Nurul Amin, managing director of National Credit and Commerce (NCC) Bank Ltd, receives an award for 'Best Support for Brand Building' from Jonathan Lavercombe, vice president of Marketing and Product Development of MoneyGram International, at the 1st South Asia Conference-2008 held recently in Goa, India.

Shipping

Chittagong Port

Table with columns: Berthing position, Name of vessels, Cargo, L Port call, Local agent, Date of arrival, Leaving, Import disch. Lists various shipping companies and their schedules.

The above is the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by ITC family, Dhaka.

Currency

Following is Sunday's (June 1, 2008) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Table with columns: Major currency exchange rates, Exchange rate of various currencies (USD, EUR, GBP, etc.) against BDT.

STOCK

Large table listing various stocks with columns for Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, and CDS. Includes sub-sections for DSE, CSE, and Other Info.

TRADED ISSUES Jun 01, 2008

Table listing traded issues with columns for Company, FV/ML, Price, Turnover, Last AGM, EPS, and CDS. Includes sub-sections for DSE, CSE, and Other Info.

Book Closes/Dividends/PO

Table listing book closures, dividends, and public offerings (PO) with columns for Company, R.D./B.C. Syst, Div, Meeting Date.

Market Highlights

Table showing market highlights for Jun 01, 2008, including DSE All Share Index, DSE-20 Index, and various indicators.

Turnover Leaders

Table listing turnover leaders with columns for Company, Turnover (Vol), M.Tk, % T, Big/Lo.

Capital Gainers

Table listing capital gainers with columns for Company, Price Chn, % Price, Close, M.Tk.

Capital Losers

Table listing capital losers with columns for Company, Price Chn, % Price, Close, M.Tk.

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