

EU trade envoy aims for global trade advance in coming months

AFP, Paris

European Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson hopes a global commerce agreement can be reached in the coming months but warned Monday that it would require advances in several sectors.

After meeting here with French Prime Minister Dominique de Villepin, Mandelson repeated that he

did not believe an agreement on a negotiating framework could be reached before an April 30 deadline.

"I don't think that we will make the breakthrough at the end of this month that we wanted but I remain committed to negotiating effectively, intensively to achieve the deal that we are looking for by this summer," he said.

"But we will only have that deal by

this summer or at anytime if we see not just progress in agriculture but profound movement in the other sectors of the negotiations: industrial goods, services as well as strengthening our world trade rules."

Referring to the French premier, Mandelson added: "He believes as I believe that Europe is making a fair, generous offer to bring about this success. We have to see a fair and

balanced return.

"We need firmer, stronger offers from our negotiating partners to achieve that balance that is indispensable to us to complete these negotiations successfully."

Key differences on reducing customs duties and other barriers to commerce remain unresolved, and senior diplomats representing the 149 members of the World Trade Organisation were to gather Monday to review the impasse, the WTO said on Friday.

The deadline of April 30 was part of a loose accord put together hurriedly at a December WTO conference in Hong Kong.

De Villepin said Monday in a statement that he had expressed "concern over the lack of progress on opening industrial markets and services in large emerging countries which are decisive for French and European companies".

The French premier added that he would remain "highly vigilant regarding agricultural questions and strict respect for the (EU) Common Agricultural Policy as it was reformed in 2003".

On Friday, finance ministers from 24 developing countries voiced concern in Washington that WTO negotiations launched in late 2001 in the Qatari capital Doha to lift barriers to world trade were now "at risk."



PHOTO: EMIRATES

Khalfan Battal Ali Al-Mansouri, the UAE ambassador in Dhaka, formally inaugurates the Emirates' new office at Terminal 1 at Zia International Airport. Among others, Mohd Shahjahan, member (Administration) of Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh, Wing Commander Humayun Kabir, Zia International Airport Director, Majed Sultan Al Joker, Emirates' Regional Airport Services manager, Mohd Kazim, Emirates' Airport Services manager in Dhaka, and Hanif Zakaria, Emirates area manager, Bangladesh, were present.



PHOTO: IPDC

Shah A Sarwar, managing director and CEO of Industrial Promotion and Development Company (IPDC) of Bangladesh, and Khwaja Arif Ahmed, managing partner and CEO of AAA Consultants and Financial Advisers, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their organisations recently. Under the accord, AAA Consultants and Advisers will act as issue manager for forthcoming IPO of IPDC.



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

Branch managers' conference of Dhaka Zone-C of Janata Bank was held recently in Dhaka. SM Aminur Rahman, managing director of the bank, formally inaugurated the conference. Among others, deputy managing directors Md Mizanur Rahman and Md Nazmus Salehin were present.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's (April 24, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	BC
70.3200	70.3500
88.1180	88.1556
126.4283	126.4823
53.4995	53.5223
0.6152	0.6155
55.8760	55.8999
9.7053	9.7095
62.4567	62.4833
9.0895	9.0934
45.1522	45.1714
19.3017	19.3099
18.8981	18.9062
12.1356	12.1408
237.4410	237.5444
TT Clean	USD
69.2500	69.2269
84.4712	84.4430
122.3994	122.3586
50.8018	50.7849
0.5941	0.5939
53.8827	53.8647
8.8278	8.8249
60.2488	60.2287
8.9103	8.9073
43.3789	43.3644
18.7026	18.6963
18.3162	18.3101
11.0092	11.0055
235.5856	235.5094
OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
69.2269	69.1808
84.4430	84.3867
122.3586	122.2770
50.7849	50.7510
0.5939	0.5935
53.8647	53.8288
8.8249	8.8190
60.2287	60.1886
8.9073	8.9014
43.3644	43.3355
18.6963	18.6839
18.3101	18.2979
11.0055	10.9982
235.5094	235.3570

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.96	60	102.69	37.725	6.3392	0.6353	3.65

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Monday. USD was stable against the Bangladeshi taka.

Local Money Market

Money market was active on Monday. Call money rate unchanged and ranged between 16.00 and 18.00 percent.

International Market

The dollar slid sharply to a three-month low against the yen and a seven month low versus the euro on Monday after Group of Seven powers said China should let its yuan appreciate as a way of fixing global imbalances. The

yen climbed around 1.3 percent against the dollar and 1 percent on the day versus the euro which gained additional support as comments from Qatar and Russia added to speculation that central banks are shifting their reserves away from the dollar. However the yen's rally stalled slightly after Japan signaled its displeasure at the rapid move when Vice Finance Minister Koichi Hosokawa said he was watching forex moves with "strong interest" and would always take appropriate action on forex as needed.

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SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 24/4/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Brave Royal	C Clink	Krabi	BRSL	21/4	28/4	3134
J/3	Ken Cape	R Seed/WI	Vanc	USL	16/4	3/5	1303
J/4	Bibi-M	GI(St,Bil)	Chenn	RSA	15/4	25/4	3647
J/5	Continent-4	GI(S,Ash)	P. Band	Cla	22/4	30/4	--
J/6	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	--	Seacon	R/A	25/4	--
J/7	San Mateo	Vehi	Sing	Nyk	24/4	25/4	--
J/8	Marisa Green	Cont	P. Kel	Everbest	17/4	25/4	411
J/9	Oel Freedom	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	15/4	28/4	--
J/10	Eastern Star	Cont	Sing	EML	18/4	28/4	--
J/11	Kota Ria	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	17/4	25/4	319
J/12	Cape Henry	Cont	Sing	APL	18/4	27/4	276
CCT/1	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	18/4	25/4	353

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Kamat Tari	24/4	--	Seacon	Sing	F/Trawler
Pretty Flourish	24/4	Novo	Mutual	Wheat(P)	--
Kota Berjaya	24/4	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya	25/4	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi	24/4	Col	BSC	Cont	Col
Kota Rukun	24/4	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Mong
Banga Bonik	26/4	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Cakra Kembar	26/4	Honi	Mutual	GI(Copra)	--
New Blessing	26/4	P. Kel	CEL	Cont	Sing
Liang Shan	26/4	Shanghai	Cosco	GI	--
Oc Dignity	26/4	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Paragon Pescadores	26/4	Sing	H&S	GI(St. Coil)	--
Yongxing	26/4	Ptp	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Vana	26/4	Nant	USL	C. Clink	Uni/Siar
Caraka Jaya Niaga-iii	26/4	Viza	Mutual	GI(St. Bil)	--
Uranus	27/4	--	Everett	Urea	K(U)

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo
Al Kuwaitiah	24/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD
Smooth Sea-4	27/4	Lumut	USL	Cpo(RM/4)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A(23/4)

Outside Port Limit

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A(23/4)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Western Star	Cont	Sing	Vega	18/4
Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	16/4
Emily-C	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	19/4
Romy	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	19/4
Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Seacon	R/A(21/12)
Pu Trusty	Cont	Col	Seacon	20/4
Phu Tan	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	21/4
Oel Wisdom	Cont	Col	PSSL	21/4
Phy My	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	22/4
Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	22/4
Oc Honour	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	23/4
Oel Excellence	Cont	Col	PSSL	24/4
Banga Bodor	Cont	Ptp	Baridhi	24/4

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Au Co-1	Raw Sugar	Bang	Park	21/4

Vessels awaiting employment/ instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Burni Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A(24/4)

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

STOCK