

## Mideast leaders gather in Egypt for economic forum

AFP, Cairo

Arab and Israeli political and business leaders are to meet for three days in Egypt's resort of Sharm el-Sheikh from Saturday, only a month after the Sinai was hit by a fresh spate of suicide bombings.

Some 1,200 leaders from the Middle East and beyond are expected to converge on the Red Sea resort for the annual World Economic Forum (WEF) Middle East.

inaugurated by Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak and focus on reforms and the issue of youth employment, under the theme, "The promise of a new generation".

Yet much of the attention will focus on the interaction between Palestinian and Israeli officials, as the international community maintains huge pressure on the Hamas-led government.

Moderate Palestinian Authority president Mahmud Abbas is expected to hold talks with Israeli Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni as well

as Mubarak.

The Islamist movement Hamas, which is not expected to send any of its ministers to the WEF, has been seeking Arab and Muslim financial support after Washington and the European Union froze their aid to the Palestinians.

Western countries, which have propped up the cash-strapped Palestinian Authority for years, want the radical Hamas to recognise Israel's right to exist.

The meeting, which was last held in Jordan in 2005, will take place

amid a tight security deployment.

"We have organised an exceptional security set-up to ensure safety at the forum, using the latest technology and specialised squads," Interior Minister Habib al-Adly told reporters.

On April 24, three suicide bombings ripped through the Sinai resort of Dahab, further up the Red Sea coast, killing 20 people, including foreign tourists, and wounding around 90.

Sharm el-Sheikh itself was hit by multiple bombings in July 2005 that killed some 70 people.

Egyptian Trade Minister Rashid Mohammed Rashid said that its hosting of the summit "paid tribute to the trust the world has in the stability and security of Egypt."

Among the highest-profile participants of the forum will be US Deputy Secretary of State Robert Zoellick, who has been involved in intensive consultations in the region and was instrumental in securing a partial peace deal for Sudan's Darfur region earlier this month.

Other prominent guests include Lebanese President Emile Lahoud and Prime Minister Fuad Siniora, as well as Turkish Prime Minister Recep Tayyip Erdogan and a string of ministers from the region.



Sayed Hassan, chief operating officer of Rahimafrooz Batteries Ltd, and Md Razib Pervez, chairman of Strategica Ltd, pose for photographs at a memorandum of understanding (MoU) signing ceremony recently. Under the MoU, Rahimafrooz has become the co-sponsor of 'Quality Fair 2006' to be held in Dhaka from May 26 to 28. In association with Katalyst, Strategica and Bangladesh Association of QMS Professionals will jointly organise the show.



Kazi Wahidul Alam, editor of The Bangladesh Monitor, a travel journal, and Brett Mahoney, director (Sales and Marketing) of Pan Pacific Sonargaon, exchange documents after signing a memorandum of understanding (MoU) yesterday. Under the MoU, the five-star hotel has become a premium partner of 'Monitor-Totalgaz Chef of the Year Competition 2006'.



Rubaba Dowla Matin, head of Marketing of mobile phone operator GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, and Sarker Maswood Hasan, general manager (Sales and Marketing) of private satellite television channel RTV, pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony recently. Under the deal, GP subscribers will be able to listen to news updates from RTV by dialing 4141 from the last week of this month. M Mosaddek Ali MP, chairman of the TV channel, and other senior officials from both the sides were also present.



Ashraf Heibam, VAS & IR marketing manager, Ziaul Hoque Sikder, senior VAS executive, and Narmin Tartila Banu, marketing executive of mobile phone operator Banglalink, pose for photographs with the winners of a promotional campaign styled 'SMS n Win' at a prize giving ceremony held recently.

## RTV to offer news updates thru' GP cellphone

Subscribers of the mobile phone operator GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd will be able to listen to news updates from private satellite television channel RTV by dialing 4141 from the last week of May.

An agreement to this effect was signed recently between the two companies, says a press release.

Rubaba Dowla Matin, head of Marketing of GP, and Sarker Maswood Hasan, general manager of RTV, signed the deal on behalf of their organisations. M Mosaddek Ali, MP, chairman, Syed Ishtiaque Reza, chief news editor of the TV channel, among others, were present at the signing ceremony.

## CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (May 18, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy				
	TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc
69.5200	69.5500	USD	68.4000	68.3772	68.3316
90.3690	90.4080	EUR	86.8475	86.8185	86.7606
132.1436	132.2006	GBP	127.9285	127.8859	127.8006
54.4342	54.4577	AUD	51.6830	51.6658	51.6314
0.6438	0.6440	JPY	0.6204	0.6202	0.6198
58.3075	58.3326	CHF	54.1116	56.0929	56.0555
9.9304	9.9347	SEK	8.9938	8.9938	8.9878
63.4886	63.5160	CAD	61.1479	61.1275	61.0867
8.9862	8.9901	HKD	8.8010	8.7981	8.7922
45.2663	45.2858	SGD	43.4148	43.4003	43.3714
19.0832	19.0914	AED	18.4735	18.4673	18.4550
18.6882	18.6962	SAR	18.1048	18.0988	18.0867
12.5250	12.5304	DKK	11.3106	11.3069	11.2993
237.1625	237.2670	KWD	235.0152	234.9392	234.7872

**Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar**

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Norokroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.09	60.025	102.905	37.925	6.0957	0.6264	3.59

**Local Interbank FX Trading** Thursday, USD remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.

## STOCK

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 18-5-2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Cakra Kember	GI(Copra)	Sing	Mutual	26/4	18/5	374
J/2	Falcon Trader	Wheat(P)	Suez	Seacom	8/5	22/5	1628
J/3	QC Honour	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	14/5	--	76
J/4	Pearl	Wheat(P)	Russ	Usi	07/5	22/5	1691
J/5	Oel Excellence	Cont	Col	Pssl	13/5	19/5	160
J/6	Emily-C	Cont	P. Kel	Seacom	12/5	20/5	114
J/7	Taurus	Urea	Jubail	Psl	6/5	18/5	579
J/8	Helios-II	GI(PatSt)	Busa	Prog	15/5	22/5	2311
J/10	Phu My	Cont	P. Kel	Rsl	10/5	18/5	--
J/11	Western Star	Cont	Sing	Vega	9/5	18/5	--
J/12	Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pli(Bd)	11/5	21/5	284
J/13	Banga Lanka	Cont	--	Bdship	R/A	18/5	--

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Coastal Express	18/5	Chenn	Bsca	Cont	Kol
Cape Henry	18/5	Sing	Apl	Cont	Sing
Kota Rukun	18/5	Sing	Pli(Bd)	Cont	Mong
Sarim	18/5	Krabi	Litmond	C. Clink	--
Jag Vikram	19/5	Viza	Saraf	G. Sling	--
Panagia	19/5	Sing	Asil	C. Clink	Cemex
Ocean Star	19/5	Novo	Pol	Wheat(P)	--
Brave Royal	19/5	Krabi	Brsi	C. Clink	Royal
Amer	18/5	P. Kel	Cel	Cont	Sing
Heng Shan	19/5	Shanghai	Cosco	GI	--
Hua Shan (Liner)	20/5	Osaka	Cosco	GI	--
Ocean Senang	19/5	Zhou	Uniship	C. Clink	Emi
Pacific Vigorous	20/5	Japa	Uniship	C. Clink	Mto/Mi
Kota Petani	20/5	Sing	Pli(Bd)	Cont	Sing
QC Teal	20/5	Col	Qcsl	Cont	Col
Ocean Park	21/5	Sing	Seacom	Cont	Sing
Oel Enterprise	20/5	Sin	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Pretty Zhe Jiang	20/5	--	Cosco	Scraping	--

### Tanker due

Al Deerah	19/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd/Jp-1
Top-1	19/5	Lumut	Rainbow	Cpo(RM/3)
Raf Raf	20/5	Hald	Nishat	Blumen(RM/3)
C.P.33	21/5	Dumai	Rainbow	Cpo (RM/3)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/A (15/5)

### Outside port limit

Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/A (15/5)
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### Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	14/5
Banga Bodor	Cont	Sing	Pli(Bd)	14/5
Kota Cahaya	Cont	Col	Bsc	16/5
Banglar Moni	Cont	P. Kel	Cel	16/5
New Blessing	Cont	Col	Baridhi	16/5
Banga Bonik	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	17/5
Xpress Makalu	Cont	Sing	Bsc	17/5
Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	Pli(Bd)	18/5

### Vessels not ready

Amanat Shah	Sugar	Chenn	Cla	3/5
Zhi Qiang	Y. Pe/W/R.S.	Vanc	Litmond	12/5
Kulnatee	Cypsum	Karabi	Bsl	14/5
Al Sabiyah	Hsd/Ms	Kuwa	Mstpl	15/5
Santa Suria-II	Sod/Chloride	Kand	Ambi	17/5
Al Muztuba	Sugar(P)	Chenn	Cla	17/5

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