

# US takes conciliatory tone at Davos, critics still wary

AFP, Davos, Switzerland

Top US officials went in to the world's largest talkfest here trying to show a kinder, gentler face but still ran up against critics wary of the superpower's tough pre-emptive policies.

Five days of non-stop debate among the political and business elite attending the World Economic Forum here produced mixed results for the Americans who were clearly eager to heal divisions from the Iraq war.

Even allies such as Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf acknowledged the United States still had work to do to resolve political issues, which he said fueled an "increasing sense of alienation in the Muslim world."

"I am afraid the healing touch

has not really started," Musharraf told reporters outside the annual forum which brought more than 2,200 top decision-makers to this Swiss ski resort.

A year after the Americans drew considerable flak at Davos for pushing their plans to invade Iraq, even alone if necessary. This year, the US delegation led by Vice President Dick Cheney worked hard to set a conciliatory tone.

"Cooperation among our governments and effective international institutions are even more important today than they have been in the past," said Cheney, considered a principal architect of Washington's muscular posture.

He made a particular appeal to the European countries such as France and Germany, which opposed the war most fiercely,

urging them to help rebuild Iraq, defuse Iran's nuclear ambitions and promote international security.

US Attorney General John Ashcroft insisted the United States "is not an aggressor" and foreswore a major pitch for the war on terrorism in favor of a call to arms against global corruption that few here could dispute.

Secretary of Commerce Donald Evans moved to assuage fears over a ballooning US budget deficit that unchecked could have serious consequences for interest and exchange rates across the world.

Evans called the shortfall both "very manageable" and "affordable," and he pledged it would be brought down by some "very, very tough decisions on spending."

Some critics of President

George W. Bush's administration saw the milder US tone as acknowledgement that "unilateralism wasn't working," as Democratic US congressman Sander Levin said.

"I think what's happened is they have shifted ground without saying that they are," Levin said after Cheney's speech. "How much they are really shifting remains to be seen."

Iranian President Mohammad Khatami said here that he had seen a new tone from the administration that had famously included his Islamic republic in the "axis of evil" threatening the world with mass destruction.

But he added, "I hope the changes we have witnessed in tone used by the United States will not be a tactical ploy but a real strategic change in policies and attitudes."



PHOTO: NCC BANK

National Credit and Commerce Bank Limited (NCC Bank) Chairman M Wazhiullah Bhuiyan, Vice-chairman Khairul Alam Chaklader and Managing Director M Aminuzzaman pose for a photograph at the annual branch managers' conference of the bank held in Dhaka on Saturday.



PHOTO: STANDARD BANK

The Managers' Conference-2004 of Standard Bank Limited was held in Dhaka recently. Standard Bank Chairman Kazi Akramuddin Ahmed, Vice-chairman Harun Rashid Choudhury and Managing Director Mosharraf Hossain were present at the function.

## US, South Korea to hold talks on beef imports

AFP, Seoul

A US trade delegation will visit South Korea this week for talks over Seoul's ban on American beef imports, the agriculture ministry said Sunday.

It will be the second beef talks between the two countries since South Korea suspended US beef imports in early December after a US cow tested positive for bovine spongiform encephalopathy or mad cow disease.

In previous talks last month, US officials explained safety measures against mad cow disease, while South Korea demanded the United States take thorough quarantine measures and clarify infection routes for the disease.

According to a US government tally, South Korea bought 200,000 tonnes of US beef between January and November last year, making it the third-largest US beef export destination after Japan and Mexico.



PHOTO: NATIONAL HOUSING

Shabbir Ahmed, deputy managing director of National Housing Finance and Investments Limited, and Md Wahiduzzaman, deputy managing director of Japan Garden City Limited, sign a memorandum of understanding on behalf of their organisations in Dhaka recently.



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Prime Bank Limited Additional Managing Director M Shahjahan Bhuiyan, Deputy Managing Director Nasiruddin Ahmed and Executive Vice-presidents Rafiqul Islam and Anwar Hossain pose for a photograph with participants of a two-week-long training on 'Islamic Banking Operations' organised by the bank in Dhaka recently.



PHOTO: QATAR AIRWAYS

Shamshad Ahsan, area manager of Qatar Airways in Bangladesh, hands over an air ticket to the winner of a raffle draw at a reception in Dhaka on Wednesday to mark the holding of US Trade Show-2004. A Gafur, executive director of American Chamber of Commerce of Bangladesh, is, among others, seen in the picture.

## CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank					
Sell		Currency	Buy		
TT/OD	BC		TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
59.1500	59.2000	USD	58.2550	58.0839	58.0144
75.4340	75.4978	EUR	72.4284	72.2157	72.1293
109.0075	109.0997	GBP	105.6105	105.3003	105.1742
46.5037	46.5430	AUD	44.2855	44.1554	44.1025
0.5601	0.5606	JPY	0.5404	0.5388	0.5382
47.9997	48.0402	CHF	46.4442	46.3078	46.2524
8.1277	8.1345	SEK	7.6324	7.6100	7.6009
45.3987	45.4371	CAD	43.9694	43.8402	43.7877
7.6242	7.6306	HKD	7.4905	7.4685	7.4595
35.0893	35.1189	SGD	34.1932	34.0928	34.0520
16.2357	16.2495	AED	15.7327	15.6865	15.6677
15.8984	15.9118	SAR	15.4110	15.3657	15.3473
10.4282	10.4371	DKK	9.4461	9.4183	9.4071

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 25/01/2004

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Lport call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leavign	Import disch
J/1	Sagaing (Liner)	Gl (St.C)	Yang	Everett	22/1	25/1	2196
J/2	Keng Tung (Liner)	Gl (St.C)	Yang	Everett	24/1	26/1	2937
J/4	Safinaz	Fert (P)	Fang	Unique	17/1	27/1	2410
J/7	Jin Cheng (Liner)	Gl	Xing	Bdship	19/1	25/1	2916
J/9	Xpress Resolve	Cong	Col	Everbest	22/1	27/1	149
J/11	Orient Freedom	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	22/1	25/1	209
J/12	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Bandhi	23/1	26/1	80
J/13	Budi Aman	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	23/1	26/1	292
Cct/1	Mardios	Cont	P. Kel	Rsl	22/1	27/1	100
Cct/2	QC Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	20/1	25/1	251
Cct/3	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	23/1	26/1	269

Vessels due at outer anchorage Date: 25/1/2004

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Cargo/Load port
Katja	26/1	Tuti	Sunshine	Gl (St. Rails)
Agios Fanouris	26/1	Visa	Move	Slag
Jaami	25/1	--	Everbest	Cont
Ocean Pride	26/1	Yang	Psal	Maize/Log
Orient Enterprise	26/1	Hald	Pssl	Cont
Zhe Tai-323	27/1	Sing	Asa	Gl (St.Pipe)
Rio Nirgo	26/1	P. Kel	Qcsl	Cont
Yong Jiang (Liner)	27/1	Inchen	Bdship	Gl
Pac Makassar	26/1	--	Pssl	Cont
Hapaan	27/1	Yang	Mia	Gl (Log)
KS Glory	27/1	Kohs	Asll	Clink
Kharj	27/1	Sing	ANCL	Fert
Thanh Son	26/1	Sing	ASA	Gl (St.Co)
Banga Borat	28/1	Sin	BdShip	Cont
An Long Jiang (Liner)	31/1	-	BdShip	Gl
Ducky Sapphire	27/1	MUMB	BMA	Gl
Kota Benjaya	28/1	Sign	Pil (BD)	Cont
Mawlamyine (Liner)	31/1	-	Everett	Gl (StC)

Danker due

Bitumen Glory	26/1/2004	Sing	Sealift	HLP Bitu (RM/3)
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Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Out side port limit

Nil

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:				
Nagatino	HSD	Kuwa	MSTPL	20/1
Banga Bort	Cont	Sing	BdShip	24/1
Dongtai Fortune	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	24/1
Threless	CDSO	Toma	USL	24/1
Advance	Gl (St C)	Yang	Everett	25/1

Vessels not ready

Continent	GI (S Ast)	Pipa	CLA	23/1
New Setokaze	CPO	Dumai	USL	24/1
New Hope-II	Clink	K Tung	Move	24/1
Eirana	Sugar (P)	Durb	BSL	25/1

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction:

Bana Biraj	--	--	BdShip	R/A (29/12)
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A (20/1)
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (23/1)

Vessels not entering

Banglar Mookh	Tsp (Fert)	Sing	Pmt	27/1
Pan Dynamic	Dap (Fert)	Aust	Bsl	10/1
Blue Sea	Clink	Lumut	Move	18/1
Karadenizs	Gtsp(Fert)	Sfax	Ssst	19/1

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

## STOCK