

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 who are 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.

US Attorney General John Ashcroft insisted the United States "is not an aggressor" and forewore 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: 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: PRIME BANK

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	7.6099
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	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leavign	Import disch
J1	Saging (Liner)	Gl (St.C)	Yang	Everett	22/1	25/1	2196
J2	Keng Tung (Liner)	Gl (St.C)	Yang	Everett	24/1	26/1	2937
J3	Safiraz	Fert (P)	Fang	Unique	17/1	27/1	2410
J7	Jin Cheng (Liner)	Gl	Xing		19/1	25/1	2916
J9	Xpress Resolve	Cong	Col	Everbest	22/1	27/1	149
J11	Orient Freedom	Cont	P. Kel	Pssi	22/1	25/1	209
J12	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Bandhi	23/1	26/1	80
J13	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	Qsl	20/1	25/1	
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	CargoLoad port
Katja	26/1	Tuti	Sunshine	Gl (St.Rails)
Agios Fanourics	26/1	Visa	Move	Slag
Jaami	25/1	—	Everbest	Col
Ocean Pride	25/1	—	Psal	Maize/Log
Orient Enterprise	26/1	Hald	Pssi	Sugar/Pulse
Zhe Tai-323	27/1	Sing	Asa	Sing
Rio Nirgo	26/1	P. Kel	Qsl	Gl (St.Pipe)
Yong Jiang (Liner)	27/1	Inchen	Cont	P. Kel
Pac Makassar	26/1	—	Pssi	Col
Haapaa	27/1	Yang	Mta	Gl (Leg)
KS Glory	27/1	Kehs	Alli	Amar/Holim
Kranj	27/1	Sing	ANCL	Fert
Thanh Son	26/1	Sing	ASA	Gl (StC)
Banga Borat	28/1	Sin	BDShip	PTP/Sing
An Long Jiang (Liner)	31/1	—	BDShip	Gl
Ducky Sapphire	27/1	MUMB	BMA	ASH
Kota Berjaya	28/1	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont
Mawlamyine (Liner)	31/1	—	Everett	Gl (SIC)

Danker due

Vessel	Date	Port	Agent	Notes
Bitumen Glory	26/1/2004	Sing	Sealift	HLP Bitu (RM/3)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo call	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Nil				

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:				
Nagatino	HSD	Kuwa	MSTPL	20/1
Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	BDShip	24/1
Dongal Fortune	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	24/1
Threeless	CDSO	Toma	USL	24/1
Advance	Gl (St C)	Yang	Everett	25/1

Vessels not ready

Continent	Gl (S Ash)Pipa	CLA	23/1
New Setokaze	CPO Dumai	USL	24/1
New Hope-II	Clink K' Tung	Move	24/1
Elrana	Sugar (P) Durb	BSL	25/1

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction:

Bangla Biraj	--	--	BDShip	R/A (29/12)
Bangla Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A (20/1)
Bangla Shourab	--	--	BSC	R/A (23/1)

Vessels not entering

Bangla Mookh	Tsp (Fert)	Sing	Pml	2/1
Pan Dynamic	Dap (Fert)	Aust	Bsl	10/1
Blue Sea	Clink	Lumut	Move	18/1

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

STOCK