

# India, Brazil, South Africa begin strategic talks in Delhi

AFP, New Delhi

The foreign ministers of India, Brazil and South Africa kicked off a meeting here Thursday aimed at bolstering co-operation in sectors such as trade, the military and public health, an Indian official said.

Indian Foreign Minister Yashwant Sinha invited his counterparts from South Africa, Nkosuzana Dlamini-Zuma, and from Brazil, Celso Amorim, the officials said.

The meeting was to be followed later Thursday by discussions between officials of the three sides, the senior Indian foreign ministry official said.

"The talks are part of the India, Brazil, South Africa Dialogue Forum which was set up in June last year and will focus on matters of mutual interest and concerns," he told AFP at the start of the talks.

Brazil has been seeking a free-trade deal among developing countries as a way of offsetting the trading clout of developed nations, and is keen to work on a trilateral agreement with India and South Africa.

The two-day talks also aim to chart a plan to explore a free-trade agreement, the official said, adding that talks on public health and strategies to combat HIV/AIDS were likely to be discussed.

The official rejected news reports that South African Health Minister Manto Tshabalala-Msimang was in New Delhi to cut a deal with her Indian and Brazilian counterparts on the co-manufacture of vital pharmaceutical products.

Brazil has sent its health ministry officials Santiago Alcazar and Antonio Barbosa, while South Africa sent its deputy director-general of health, M. Matsau and chief health director H. Zokusa, the officials said.

India and Brazil are leaders among developing countries, which banded together at the failed World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks in Cancun last

September to press the developed world to phase out farm subsidies.

The Cancun talks collapsed after delegates failed to agree on eliminating farm subsidies in industrialised nations and proposals to extend the WTO mandate to cross-border investment.

Sinha, Amorim and Dlamini-Zuma will also discuss ways of creating strong trading partnerships with China and Russia to make their presence felt at the WTO.

Seven interactive sessions on themes ranging from energy to development have also been planned for the two-day forum.



PHOTO: INTERSPEED

V Chandrasekar, regional head of Information Technology and Systems (Middle East and South Asia) of Standard Chartered Bank, receives the Banker Middle East Banking Awards 2004 for best use of IT for multi-channel strategy.



PHOTO: UNITREND

Masih-ul-Karim, managing director of Berger Paints Bangladesh Limited, formally inaugurates a new Berger Colour Bank at Rupali Hardware Store in Kushtia recently.



PHOTO: SIBL

Social Investment Bank Ltd Managing Director Kazi Anwarul Mahub and Peoples Leasing and Financial Services Ltd Managing Director Khandkar Manjur Murshed sign an agreement on behalf of their companies in Dhaka on Wednesday. Under the deal, the leasing company will get Tk 5 crore mid term investment facility from the bank.



PHOTO: A POSITIVE ADVERTISING LTD

The Town Hall meeting of Brac Bank Limited employees was held recently in Dhaka. Managing Director of the bank M Ehsanul Haque, Deputy Managing Director Imran Rahman and Executive Vice-president Kaiser Tamiz Amin, among others, were present.

## Ebbers pleads not guilty in WorldCom case

REUTERS, New York

Former WorldCom Inc Chief Executive Bernard Ebbers pleaded not guilty on Wednesday to charges that he orchestrated the largest accounting fraud in US history.

Appearing before the same judge who 24 hours earlier accepted a guilty plea from the government's star witness against him, Ebbers entered pleas of innocence to charges of fraud, conspiracy and making false statements in connection with the \$11 billion bookkeeping scandal that fueled WorldCom's collapse.

US District Judge Barbara Jones set a trial date of Nov. 9 and said Ebbers could remain free on \$10 million bail, secured in part by his \$2.5 million house in Mississippi. Ebbers was forced to surrender his passport, and his travel within the United States was restricted to New York City, Washington, D.C., Mississippi and Louisiana.

Ebbers did not comment outside the courthouse following the arraignment, but his attorney, Reid Weingarten, said his client had committed no crime.

"We don't believe Bernie Ebbers ever sought to mislead investors," Weingarten told reporters.

# SHIPPING

## Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 4/3/2004

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Kamnik	GI	Sing	ANCL	3/3	7/3	537
J/5	Rise	Idle	Viza	SSTL	23/10	5/3	
J/7	Xiang Jiang	GI	Xing	Bdship	27/2	4/3	1205
J/8	Presto	Def	Yang	Rkship	29/2	4/3	
Cargo							
J/10	Asean Express	Slag	Puku	Move	25/2	4/3	1893
J/11	Orient Excellence	Cont	P. Kel	PSSL	1/3	4/3	
J/12	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(bd)	2/3	5/3	150
J/13	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	1/3	4/3	
CCT/1	New Blessing	Cont	P. Kel	Seaborn	3/3	6/3	321
CCT/2	QC Honour	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	3/3	6/3	165
CCJ	Bosowa Seamblian	Slag	Cyp	SSA	1/3	7/3	2336
RM/3	Iran Bahonar	Cdso	Maur	Rainbow	27/2	27/3	3341
RM/4	Sea Horse-1	Cpol	Kunt	MTCL	3/3	5/3	4300
RM/5	Ocean Porpoise	Ms	Sing	MSTPL	2/3	6/3	4559
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	K. Dia	BSC	R/A	4/3	
DD:	Banglar Mamata	Repair	Yang	BSC	6/2	15/3	

## Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Prosperous Ocean	4/3	Tuba	ANCL	C. Clink	Shah
O. Freedom (Cont) 22/2	4/3	Pki	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
Layar Sentosa	4/3	Chin	Unicom	TSP	
Brave Royal	4/3	Kohsi	ARL	C. Clink	Royal
K. Singa (Cont) 23/2	4/3	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	L/Col
Inwa	5/3	Kaki	Gpai	Rice/W(tg)	
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 24/2	5/3	Cbo	Everbest	Cont	L/Col
Honeywa	5/3	Yang	Total	Black Maple	
Niaga-61	5/3	-	Rsship	Demolition	
Qc Pintail (Cont) 25/2	5/3	Col	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
B. Moni (Cont) 24/2	9/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
B. Shikha (Cont) 28/2	7/3	Sing	PSC	Cont	L/Sing
Donotal Fortune (Cont) 28/2	6/3	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	L/Sing
Marine Jeju (Liner)	10/3	Sing	Everett	-	-
Banga Barta	12/3	Mumb	Baridhi	-	-

## Tanker due

Ventura	3/3	Sant	MBA	CDSO	RM/4/8
Bunga Siantan	4/3	Kaki	MTCL	CPO	RM/8/3
Salamat-2	7/3	Hald	CMA	RM/3	
Crozi	6/3	Kuwa	MSTP	RM/5	
Suvarna Swaraja	7/3	Chan	SSLL	HSD	RM
Salamat-1	8/3	Sing	Olm	Blumen	RM/3

## Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Loutwat Qatar	Crude Oil	Rhanu	USS	27/2
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A

## Vessels at outer anchorage

vessels ready				
Banga Borat (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Bdship	3/3
Al Kuwaitiah	HSD/SKO	Kuwa	MSTPL	3/3
Estrella Eterna	Vehi	Sing	Everett	3/3
Mmm Jackson	CPO	Bblw	USL	3/3

## Vessels not ready

Meros Komari	Sugar(P)	Kaki	Able	2/3
--------------	----------	------	------	-----

## Vessels awaiting instruction

Banga Biraj			Bdship	R/A
Banglar Umi	Ballast	Chenn	BSC	3/3

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

## CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (March 3, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell			Buy		
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
59.4000	59.4500	USD	58.5050	58.3332	58.2633
72.9432	73.0046	EUR	70.4166	70.2098	70.1258
109.1000	109.1918	GBP	106.0228	105.7113	105.5848
45.2687	45.3068	AUD	43.1533	43.0265	42.9750
0.5467	0.5472	JPY	0.5275	0.5260	0.5254
46.1790	46.2178	CHF	44.6671	44.5359	44.4826
7.8199	7.8265	SEK	7.2309	7.2096	7.2010
44.6482	44.6858	CAD	43.2186	43.0916	43.0401
7.6294	7.6358	HKD	7.5000	7.4779	7.4690
34.8940	34.9233	SGD	34.0680	33.9679	33.9273
16.3043	16.3181	AED	15.7998	15.7534	15.7345
15.9665	15.9799	SAR	15.4775	15.4321	15.4136
10.1010	10.1095	DKK	9.1764	9.1494	9.1385
202.2679	202.4381	KWD	191.4556	190.8932	190.6648

## Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit
45.255	57.325	96.75	39.515	7.0955	0.7182	3.80

## STOCK