

Top trading nations meet at month-end to revive WTO talks

AFP, Geneva

Top diplomats from the United States, European Union and a few other nations will hold private talks in London at the end of April to try to relaunch a key round of global free-trade negotiations, a report said Friday.

US trade representative Robert Zoellick is believed to have called the meeting, set for April 30, in co-operation with his European counterpart Pascal Lamy, the EU trade commissioner, the Financial Times said, citing diplomats.

Brazil, Kenya, Mexico and South Africa were also expected to take part, although India's commerce minister had turned down the invitation, the newspaper reported.

Diplomats reportedly want to forge common ground between the group just three months before the expiry of a deadline set by the 146

members of the World Trade Organisation to relaunch the stuttering round of liberalisation talks.

The select meeting in London would precede another gathering of WTO members on the sidelines of an OECD conference in Paris on May 14.

Thirty states, mainly large, developing nations such as China, Brazil and India, will attend the Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development meeting and are likely to join the mini WTO reunion chaired by Mexico, according to a trade source.

The so-called Doha negotiations are due to be concluded by the end of the year but have effectively been on hold since the collapse of a ministerial meeting last September in Cancun, Mexico amid deep divisions between rich and poor countries.

Asia-Pacific growth fails to ease poverty: UN

REUTERS, Hong Kong

Asia-Pacific economies are set for robust growth this year but still face a major challenge in tackling poverty, the economic and social arm of the United Nations said Friday.

"In a number of countries, even when the economies are growing there has not been a commensurate improvement in the quality of the poorer sections of society," the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (Unescap) said in its regional survey for 2004.

"Country experiences suggest that, in addition to sustained growth, measures designed specifically to increase access to economic opportunities for the poor are necessary if the benefits of growth are to be distributed evenly and poverty is to be eliminated on a sustainable basis."

Economies in the region are expected to see strong growth this

year, driven by intraregional trade and domestic demand.

China's rapidly expanding economy is a driving force, helping growth in the region become more autonomous. Economic revival in Japan, a major source of demand for the region's exports and of foreign direct investment, was another positive, Unescap said.

However, low-cost China also poses a challenge to Southeast Asian and other countries which need to enhance their competitiveness by upgrading skills and developing more domestic technology.

Risks to Asia-Pacific economies include rapid fluctuations in exchange rates that could undermine business and consumer confidence, protectionist tendencies, monetary tightening and a another widespread outbreak of bird flu.

BANKWISE LENDING RATE (PERCENTAGE PER ANNUM) April, 2004									
Name of the Banks	Agriculture	Term loan to large & medium scale industry	Term loan to small industry	Working Capital to industry	Export	Trade Financing	Housing loan	Consumer credit	Others
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
NCBs									
1.SONALI	5.00-9.00	11.00	10.00-10.50	11.00	7.00-9.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	10.00-12.00
2.JANATA	10.00	9.00-11.00	10.00	10.00-11.00	7.00	12.50	11.00-12.00	12.00	12.50
3.AGRANI	10.00	10.00-11.00	10.50	11.00	7.00-9.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	10.00-13.00
4.RUPALI	9.00	11.25	10.00 & 10.50	11.50	7.00	12.00 & 12.50	12.00	12.00	10.00-12.00
DFIs									
5. BKB	10.00	10.00	10.00	10.00	7.00	12.00	-	-	10.00-12.00
6.BSB	10.00	9.00-11.00	9.00-11.00	10.00-11.00	7.00	12.00-12.50	12.00	-	10.00-14.50
7.RAKUB	10.00	10.00	10.00	9.00	7.00	14.00	6.00	-	11.00-12.00
8.BSRS	-	10.00-11.00	10.00	12.00	7.00	12.00	12.00-12.50	12.50	10.00-13.50
9.BASIC	9.00-9.50	11.00	10.00-11.00	10.00-12.00	7.00	12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
PCBs									
10. PUBALI	8.00-10.00	13.00-14.00	11.00-12.00	13.00-14.00	7.00	-	13.00-14.00	14.00	12.00-14.00
11.UTTARA	10.00	13.00	12.50	14.00	7.00	14.00	14.00	13.50	12.50-14.50
12.AB-BANK	8.00-11.00	12.50-14.00	10.00-11.00	9.00-14.25	7.00	10.00-14.50	14.00-14.90	14.00-18.00	9.00-14.90
13.IFIC	10.00-12.00	13.00-14.50	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.50	7.00-9.00	13.00-14.50	13.00-14.50	14.50-16.00	13.50-14.50
14.ISLAMI	10.00	13.50	12.50	13.50	7.00-9.00	13.50-14.00	13.50-14.50	12.50-13.50	12.50-14.50
15.NBL	12.00-14.50	14.00-14.50	13.00-14.00	14.00-14.50	7.00	14.00-16.00	14.50-15.50	14.00	13.00-15.00
16.THE CITY	11.00-15.00	12.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	12.00-15.00	7.00-9.00	12.00-15.00	12.00-15.00	13.50	9.00-18.00
17.UCBL	10.00	14.00	12.00	14.00	7.00	13.50	15.00	-	13.00-15.00
18.ORIENTAL	12.00-14.00	14.00-16.00	12.00	14.00-16.00	7.00	14.00-16.00	16.00	15.00	14.00-16.00
19.EBL	10.00-15.00	11.25-14.50	12.00-15.00	9.00-14.50	7.00	11.50-15.00	11.50-15.00	13.25-15.00	11.50-15.00
20.NCCBL	10.00	12.00-13.00	10.00	12.00-13.00	7.00	12.00-15.00	12.00-14.00	15.00	13.00-15.00
21.PRIME	10.00-12.00	12.00-13.50	12.00-14.00	12.50-13.50	7.00	12.50-14.00	-	-	12.50-15.00
22.SOUTHEAST	7.00-10.00	12.00-13.00	11.50-12.50	11.50-13.00	7.00	12.00-13.00	12.00-13.00	13.00	12.00-13.00
23.DHAKA	7.00-10.00	11.00-14.00	9.00-12.00	10.00-14.00	7.00	11.00-14.00	11.00-14.00	15.00-18.00	10.00-13.00
24.AL-ARAFAH	10.00-14.50	13.00-15.00	10.00-15.00	12.00-14.50	7.00	12.00-15.00	-	-	12.00-14.50
25.SIBL	10.00	12.50-14.00	12.00-14.00	12.00-14.00	7.00-9.00	12.00-14.00	12.50-14.00	14.00	14.00
26.DUTCH-BANGLA	9.00	12.00	10.00	12.00	7.00	11.50-12.00	12.00	12.00	12.00
27.MERCANTILE	10.00	11.50-14.50	11.50-14.50	11.50-14.50	7.00	11.50-14.50	11.50-14.50	15.00	11.50-14.50
28.ONE BANK	8.00-10.00	12.00-15.00	11.00-13.00	8.00-15.00	7.00	12.00-15.00	-	-	12.00-15.00
29.EXIM	10.00-12.00	13.00-14.00	12.00-13.00	13.00-14.00	7.00	13.00-14.00	14.00	13.00-14.00	13.00-14.00
30.PREMIER	12.00	12.50-14.00	12.50-13.50	11.50-14.00	7.00	13.00-14.50	-	17.30-18.20	14.00-15.00
31.FIRST SECURITY	12.00	14.00	13.00	14.00	7.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	14.00
32.STANDARD	10.00-14.00	12.50-15.00	14.00	12.50-15.00	7.00	12.50-15.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00
33.TRUST BANK	9.00	11.00-12.50	10.00-11.00	11.00-12.50	7.00	12.00-13.00	12.00	12.00	12.00-13.00
34.MUTUAL TRUST	9.00-10.00	12.50-13.50	10.00-11.00	12.50-13.50	7.00	12.50-13.50	12.50-13.50	13.00-13.50	12.50-13.50
35.BANK ASIA	9.00	14.00	12.00-13.00	14.00	7.00	14.00	14.00	14.00	11.50-14.00
36.BCBL	10.00	13.50	13.50	13.50	7.00	13.50	14.00	15.00	12.00

37.JAMUNA	10.00	12.50-14.00	12.00-14.00	13.00-14.00	7.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	14.00	13.00-15.00
38.SHAHJALAL	10.00-13.50	12.00-15.50	12.50-15.50	7.00-15.50	7.00	10.00-15.50	12.50-15.50	12.50-15.50	12.50-15.50
39.BRAC	9.00-12.00	13.00-15.00	16.00-18.00	13.00-15.00	7.00	13.00-24.00	-	-	12.00-17.00
FBs									
40.AMEX	-	10.50-13.75	-	8.00-12.50	7.00-10.00	8.25	-	10.00-13.00	7.00-15.00
41.COMMERCIAL B.	7.00-9.00	9.50-12.50	8.00-10.00	7.75-12.00	7.00	9.50-12.50	-	-	10.00-13.00
42.ST.CHARTE RED	7.75-12.00	10.00-13.25	10.00-13.75	7.75-13.00	7.00-9.00	9.00-13.50	-	7.00-19.50	7.75-15.00
43.HABIB	7.00	12.00-13.00	12.00-13.00	12.00-14.50	7.00	12.00-14.00	-	12.00-14.00	12.00-13.00
44.SBI	10.00-11.00	11.50-13.50	11.00-12.00	11.50-13.50	7.00	11.50-13.50	12.50	-	13.00-15.00
45.NBP	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	13.00-15.00	7.00	14.00-16.00	-	-	14.00-16.00
46.CITI N.A.	10.00-12.00	11.50-13.50	9.00-11.00	8.50-14.00	7.00-9.50	9.50-14.00	-	-	8.50-14.00
47.WOORI	7.00-12.00	10.50-14.00	10.00-11.00	7.00-14.00	7.00	12.00-14.00	-	-	11.00-14.00
48.SHAMIL	8.00	12.00-14.00	10.00-12.00	8.50-12.00	7.00	11.00-13.00	-	-	11.00-13.00
49.HSBC	-	10.00-14.00	-	7.90-14.00	7.00	-	14.00	8.00-15.00	-

Banks are permitted to differentiate in lending rates to individual borrowers not more than 3% in the same lending category.

BANKWISE DEPOSIT RATE (PERCENTAGE PER ANNUM) April, 2004						
Name of the Banks	Savings Deposit	Fixed Deposit				
		3 months but<6 months	6 months but<1 year	1 year but<2 years	2 years but<3 years	3 years and above
1		2	3	4	5	6
NCBs						
1.SONALI	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	-
2.JANATA	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	-
3.AGRANI	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	-
4.RUPALI	3.75	5.50	5.75	6.25	6.50	-
DFIs						
5. BKB	4.50	6.25	6.50	7.00	7.25	7.25
6.BSB	3.50	5.25	5.50	6.00	6.25	6.25
7.RAKUB	4.50	6.25	6.50	7.00	7.25	7.25
8.BSRS	4.50	6.25	6.50	7.00	7.25	7.50
9.BASIC	6.00	7.00	7.50	7.75	8.00	8.00
PCBs						
10. PUBALI	4.25	6.00	6.25	6.75	7.00	-
11.UTTARA	5.50	7.00	7.25	7.50	8.00	8.25
12.AB-BANK		8.00	8.25	8.50	7.75	-
13.IFIC	6.50	7.75-8.50	8.00-8.75	8.25-9.00	-	-
14.ISLAMI	5.50	6.50	6.80	7.20	7.30	7.50
15.NBL	7.00	8.00-10.00	8.25-10.25	8.50-10.50	9.25-11.25	9.25-11.25
16.THE CITY	5.50-6.00	7.50-8.50	7.75-8.75	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00
17.UCBL	6.50	7.50	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.00
18.ORIENTAL	7.50	8.50	9.00	9.50	10.00	10.50
19.EBL	5.50-6.50	8.25-8.75	8.25-8.90	7.30-9.00	8.00-8.90	7.00
20.NCCBL	5.50	8.00-8.50	8.50-9.00	9.00-9.50	-	9.50
21.PRIME	6.00-7.00	7.25-8.00	7.75-8.50	8.00-9.00	8.00-9.00	8.00-11.25
22.SOUTHEAST	7.00	7.50-8.50	7.75-8.75	8.50-9.50	8.75-9.75	8.75-9.75
23.DHAKA	6.00	8.25-9.00	8.50-9.25	8.75-9.50	8.75-9.50	8.75-9.50
24.AL-ARAFAH	6.31	7.57	7.96	8.35	8.55	8.74
25.SIBL	6.85	8.50	8.85	9.20	9.30	9.50
26.DUTCH-BANGLA	7.00	7.25	7.75	8.00	8.25	8.50
27.MERCANTILE	6.50	8.25-8.50	8.50-9.00	9.25-10.00	-	-
28.ONE BANK	8.00	8.50-9.50	8.75-9.75	9.00-10.00	9.25-10.50	9.25-10.50
29.EXIM	7.50	8.75-9.00	9.25-9.50	9.75-10.00	-	-
30.PREMIER	6.50	9.00-9.50	9.50-10.00	10.00-10.50	-	-
31.FIRST SECURITY	7.00	9.00-9.25	9.50-10.00	10.00-10.25	-	-
32.STANDARD	7.00	9.00	9.50	10.00	-	-
33.TRUST BANK	7.00	8.00	8.50	9.00	9.25	9.50
34.MUTUAL TRUST	-	9.00-9.50	9.25-9.75	10.00-10.50	-	-
35.BANK ASIA	7.00	8.75-9.00	9.25	9.50	-	-
36.BCBL	5.00	8.00-9.00	8.25-9.25	8.50	8.75	9.00
37.JAMUNA	7.00	7.50-8.75	9.00-9.50	9.75	10.00	-
38.SHAHJALAL	6.50	9.00-10.00	9.25-10.25	9.50-10.50	9.75-10.75	9.75-10.75
39.BRAC	5.50-6.50	7.75-8.75	8.25-9.75	8.25-10.00	8.25-10.00	8.25-9.75
FBs						
40.AMEX	5.00	6.25-7.75	6.50-8.25	6.75-8.50	-	-
41.COMMERCIAL B.	5.00	6.50-8.00	6.75-8.25	6.75-8.50	7.00-8.00	6.50-7.50
42.ST.CHARTERED	4.50-6.90	4.50-6.30	6.00-6.75	6.50-7.25	6.50-7.70	7.00-8.00
43.HABIB	5.50	6.75-7.75	7.00-8.00	7.25-8.25	7.75-8.75	8.50-9.50
44.SBI	5.50	6.50-6.75	7.00-7.25	8.50-9.50	8.50-9.00	8.50-9.00
45.NBP	6.00	8.00-8.25	8.25-8.50	8.50-9.00	9.00-9.50	-
46.CITI N.A.	4.50	5.75-6.00	5.75-6.75	6.00-6.75	6.00-6.75	6.00-6.75
47.WOORI	6.50	7.00	7.50	8.00	-	-
48.SHAMIL	3.00-5.50	6.00-7.50	6.50-8.00	7.50-8.50	8.00-8.50	8.50-9.00
49.HSBC	4.10-5.10	5.10-5.75	6.10-6.75	6.50-7.00	-	-