

## Apec trade ministers to set pace for reviving WTO talks

AFP, Washington

Ministers of 21 Asia Pacific economies, controlling nearly half of world trade, meet in Chile this week under pressure from business groups in the region to jumpstart stalled global trade talks.

Facing a self-imposed July deadline, the trade ministers from industrialized and developing economies of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) forum may achieve agreement on some key issues that could salvage

the Doha round of trade talks, officials said.

The talks collapsed in September last year due largely to disputes over cross-border investment and competition which added to a more fundamental dispute about richer states' farming subsidies, and tariffs imposed on agriculture imports by developing nations.

Ricardo Lagos, a senior government official from Chile, said there were high expectations for the June 4-5 Apec ministerial meeting to

follow up on "good progress" made at recent Paris talks among 28 key World Trade Organisation (WTO) members.

"The feeling I get from delegations from many economies is that they are looking forward to Apec to really making a difference in terms of taking an extra step towards reaching that goal before the end of July," Lagos told AFP.

Officials believe consensus was evolving around the sticky issue of trade facilitation, one of four so-called "Singapore issues" fleshed

out at a meeting on the Southeast Asian island state way back in 1996.

The other issues are cross-border investment and competition and transparency in government procurement.

The European Union and Japan had been pushing for all four to be included in the Doha Round, much to the chagrin of developing countries, but of late seem to accept talks on just trade facilitation based on significant customs reform.



PHOTO: BAYER CROPSCIENCE

(Sitting -- from left to right) Mostafizur Rahman, director of Bayer CropScience Ltd, Major Gen (Retd) Imamuz-Zaman, chairman, Philippe Medeau, managing director, (standing from left to right) AKM Shamsuddin, director, AH Choudhury, auditor of the company, MA Khair, company secretary, and Adeb H. Khan of Rahman Rahman Huq (Auditors) pose for photographs at the 32nd board meeting and 9th annual general meeting held recently in Dhaka.



PHOTO: CITYCELL

Intekhab Mahmud, head of marketing of CityCell phone, and Erfanuddin Ahmed, senior executive vice-president of Bank Asia, exchange documents after signing an agreement on behalf of their organisations. Under the deal, CityCell subscribers who have accounts with Bank Asia will be able to access bank account details through SMS.

## India stocks slump over 2pc on worries over govt policies

AFP, Mumbai

Indian share prices slumped more than two percent Monday as investors dumped stocks amid sustained concerns over the new government's left-leaning economic policies, dealers said.

They said worries over the oil price outlook after a weekend terrorist attack in Saudi Arabia and regional market weakness added to the negative tone.

The BSE 30-share benchmark Sensex index was off 127.79 points or 2.64 percent at 4,707.60 in late morning trade but up from an early low of 4,665.21.

The losses came on top of Friday's fall of 4.41 percent after Finance Minister Palaniappan Chidambaram tried but failed to reassure investors the communist-backed Congress government was committed to economic growth and reform.

"It's a combination of two factors led by weak regional markets and concerns over the new government's revenue-raising ability as the new policy guidelines are likely to increase the fiscal deficit," said Venkat Iyer, director at RK Chary Stock Broking.



KMA Shamim, chairman of Electronic Transactions Network Ltd and Zahir Ahmed, managing director, hand over a crest to Abdur Rakib, executive president, and Velayet Hussain, deputy executive president of Islami Bank Bangladesh Ltd, in appreciation of issuance of 10,000 E-cash debit cards to customers.

## CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (May 31, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
61.9000	61.9500	USD	60.1550	59.9783	59.9065
76.4775	76.5392	EUR	72.6793	72.4658	72.3791
114.3726	114.4650	GBP	109.4941	109.1725	109.0418
44.9270	44.9633	AUD	42.1867	42.0628	42.0124
0.5715	0.5719	JPY	0.5439	0.5423	0.5417
49.9919	50.0323	CHF	47.5646	47.4249	47.3682
8.3132	8.3199	SEK	7.5752	7.5530	7.5440
45.8145	45.8515	CAD	43.7682	43.6396	43.5874
7.9503	7.9567	HKD	7.7104	7.6878	7.6786
36.6142	36.6438	SGD	35.2691	35.1655	35.1234
16.9906	17.0043	AED	16.2449	16.1972	16.1776
16.6389	16.6523	SAR	15.9140	15.8873	15.8483
10.5868	10.5954	DKK	9.4853	9.4575	9.4461
210.6589	210.8290	KWD	196.7521	196.1742	195.9394

### Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank market was active. US dollar closed slightly stronger against Bangladeshi taka due to limited supply of US dollars against

### Local Money Market

import related needs. Money market was active. Call money rate eased a little and ranged between 3.50 and 4.50 percent compared with 4.00-5.50 percent previously.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 31/5/2004

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L.Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Pavonis	Gl(Log/Pulse)	Yang	Pmi	23/5	3/6	1181
J/2	Xiang Jiang (Liner)	Gl	Inch	Bdship	30/5	3/6	2950
J/3	Santa Maria	Wheat(P)	Viza	Able	7/5	5/6	144
J/4	Sittwe (Liner)	Gl (St. & Log)	Yang	Everett	29/5	1/6	1002
J/5	QC Pintail	Cont	P. Kel	Bsl	25/5	2/6	1984
J/7	Angela-R	Clink	Tanj	Qcsl	21/5	4/6	2652
J/8	MMM Belinda	Gl(St&Mac)	Mumb	Asa	30/5	31/5	1984
J/9	Tiger	Gl (Spl. C)	Mumb	Everett	30/5	1/6	178
J/10	QC Star	Cont	P. Kel	Qcsl	30/5	2/6	370
J/12	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pi(Bd)	30/5	2/6	350
J/13	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Col	Everbest	29/5	1/6	350
Cct/1	Orient Freedom	Cont	P. Kel	Pssl	30/5	3/6	109
Cct/2	Mardios	Cont	P. Kel	Rsl	29/5	2/6	198
Cct/3	Van Xuan	Cont	Sing	Pssl	30/5	2/6	198
Gsj:	Celje	Fert(P)	Sing	Ancl	21/5	2/6	198
RM/3	Tirta Niaga-II	Cpol	Mala	Bma	30/5	1/6	198

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Banga Bijoy	31/5	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Orient Wisdom	1/6	Sing	Pssl	Cont	Col
Shivaji	31/5	P. Band	Intraport	Scraping	Col
Asian Prime	31/5	Lumut	Asil	Clink/Holcim	Col
Kota Cahaya	1/6	Sing	Pi (Bd)	Cont	Sing
Penang	2/6	Vangia	Cyl	Construct	Col
An Wujiang (Liner)	1/6	Sin	Bdship	Gl/P. Cargo	Col
Banga Borat	1/6	P. Kel	Bdship	Cont	Pkl/Sing
QC Honour	3/6	P. Kel	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Pyongyang-813	2/6	Bank	Usl	Sugar (P)	Col
Banga Bodor	3/6	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Pkl/Sing
Orient Enterprise	3/6	Pkl	Pssl	Cont	Sing

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Ocean Marlin	1/6	Sing	Indo	Mstpl	Hsd/MS(Doj/2)
Fortune Irene	1/6	Sing	Indo	Mtcl	Cpo (RM/8)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Dea Captain	--	--	lbsa	R/A (29/5)

### Outside port limit

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Fu Shen	Gl (Log)	Yang	Mutual	30/5
Hua Mulan	Cpo	Mala	Usl	31/5

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Pagan	Sugar (P)	Bank	Gpsl	27/5
Pathen	Sugar (P)	Bank	Gpsl	29/5
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	K. Dia	Bsc	R/A (29/5)
Pearl	R. Phos	Sing	Pacific	30/5
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	K. Dia	Bc	R/A

### Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banga Biraj	--	--	Bdship	R/A (29/12)
An Lu Jiang	Fert(P)	Qinz	Rsa	11/5

### Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sailor-1	Slag	Viza	Move	24/5
Blue Sea	Clink	Kaki	Move	25/5
Gaz Med	Scraping	Sing	Csta	22/5
Ap Merit	Scraping	P. Said	Intraport	24/5

### Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sailor-1	Slag	Viza	Move	24/5
Blue Sea	Clink	Kaki	Move	25/5
Gaz Med	Scraping	Sing	Csta	22/5
Ap Merit	Scraping	P. Said	Intraport	24/5

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



PHOTO: BANGLADESH PROTIBONDHI FOUNDATION

Commercial Bank of Ceylon Limited Managing Director Amitha Gooneratne hands over a cheque to Professor Sultana S Zaman, general secretary and chief executive of Bangladesh Protibondhi Foundation, for construction of a diagnostic clinic and service centre for screening and providing services to children with disability. Commercial Bank Country Manager S Renganathan, General Manager Dilip Das Gupta and Deputy General Manager S Kutubuddin Ahmed and Protibondhi Foundation Executive Director Shirin Z Munir and Director Shamim Fedous were present at the function.

## STOCK