

US seen making big push to advance WTO talks in 2005

REUTERS, Washington

US Trade Representative Robert Zoellick is expected to launch a big push early next year to ensure world trade talks make substantial progress in 2005, US business officials said on Wednesday.

"I would predict we'd see a pretty strong effort on the part of Zoellick," said Frank Vargo, vice president for international affairs at the National Association of Manufacturers. "I'd be amazed if he didn't do that."

Richard Mills, a spokesman for Zoellick, refused to discuss specific plans the US has for the World Trade Organization talks.

Zoellick began 2004 with a letter calling on all World Trade Organization members to come

Main asset of Yukos falls into state hands

AFP, Moscow

The main asset of Russia's stricken Yukos oil giant fell into state hands Thursday in the first renationalisation of the post-Soviet era but the dispossessed owners immediately vowed a legal challenge.

Russian state petroleum company Rosneft became the new owner of Yukos' core oil-pumping subsidiary after buying the mystery firm that won a secretive weekend auction for Yuganskneftegaz.

Rosneft, which is merging with state-run gas monopoly Gazprom, issued a surprise announcement just before midnight that it had acquired 100 percent of the shares of previously unknown Baikalfinansgroup.

"Rosneft has bought 100 percent of the shares of Baikalfinansgroup," a spokesman for the company said, quoted by the Interfax news agency. He did not reveal how much Rosneft had paid.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 23/12/2004

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	D/O of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Foc Prosperity	TSP(P)	Sing	Unique	20/12	25/12	1832
J/2	Cakra Kember	GI(Copra)	Sing	Limond	21/12	29/12	620
J/3	Kamnik	GI	Sing	ANCL	20/12	28/12	941
J/4	Orient Enterprise	Cont	Hald	PSSL	22/12	24/12	112
J/5	Kyaw Yadanar	GI(Y.Maize)	Yang	MTA	18/12	23/12	322
J/6	Selendang Kasa	GI	Sing	Rainbow	17/12	24/12	1961
J/7	Golden Harmony	Sugar	Sant	USL	09/12	24/12	2962
J/8	Pu Chang	GI	China	Bdship	20/12	28/12	1559
J/9	Feng An Shan	GI	Sang	Bdship	20/12	25/12	2623
J/10	Oel Freedom	Col	P. Kal	PSSL	21/12	26/12	149
J/11	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	20/12	24/12	126
J/12	Oel Esteem	Cont	Tanj	PSSL	17/12	23/12	40
J/13	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kal	Bdship	19/12	24/12	40
CCT/1	Kola Tampam	Cont	Sing	PI(Bd)	21/12	24/12	339

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Maritime Chiangmai	23/12	Tarj	BSL	Clink	Htbl
Tug Winstar Reliance	23/12	Indo	Sigma	Towing D/Vessel Barge	Scraping
Barge Adong	23/12	Indo	Sigma	Scraping	Cont
Banga Borat	24/12	Sing	Bdship	Cont	PI(Sing)
Eastern Star	24/12	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Thanh Son	24/12	Sing	ASA	GI(S.C)	—
Pha Shwe Gyawmya	24/12	Yang	MTA	GI(Y. Maize)	—
Xpress Resolve	24/12	Col	Everbest	Cont	Col
Tortuga	24/12	—	—	Unique	Glute
Brave Royal	24/12	Kent	BRSL	Clink	Royal
Qc Star	24/12	P. Kal	OCSL	Clink	Sing
Kota Cahaya	25/12	Sing	PI(Bd)	Cont	Mgl
Banga Biraj	26/12	Sing	Bdship	Cont	PI
Mongia	27/12	Yang	MTA	GI(Log)	—
Pagan	27/12	Yang	MTA	GI(Log)	—
Talishan	28/12	P. Kal	Everest	Vehi	—

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Salamat-1	26/12	—	Olm	Bitumen	—
Al Kuwaitiah	26/12	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Sko	—
Probo Emu	26/12	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Sko	—

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Outside port limit				
Rig Ocean Sovereign	—	Sing	Beeline	18/11
Gulfdrift	Pr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	27/11
Dea Captain	—	—	IBSA	R/A (18/12)
Pacific Pioneer	Dr. Equip	—	IBSA	R/A (17/12)
Bonanza	Wheat(G)	Quab	Lams	19/12
Amanat Shah	Wheat(G)	—	Cla	R/A (22/12)
Pavonis	Wheat(G)	—	Lams	R/A (23/12)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Vessels ready				
Xpress Manusk	Cont	P. Kal	RSL	21/12
Banga Bara	Cont	Sing	Bdship	22/12
Banglar Moni	Wheat(G)	K. Dia	Lams	R/A (22/12)
New Blessing	Cont	P. Kal	Everest	22/12

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Ausonia	CDSO	Darb	Rainbow	20/12
Al Muztaba	Rice (Y.Ma)	Yang	Cla	20/12

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



Shafiqul Islam (2nd from left), chairman and managing director of Aftab Automobiles Ltd, presides over the company's annual general meeting in Dhaka on Tuesday.



Shafiqul Islam (2nd from left), chairman and managing director of Aftab Automobiles Ltd, presides over the company's annual general meeting in Dhaka on Tuesday.

Euro hits record high of 1.3484 dollars

AFP, London

The euro hit a record high point of 1.3484 dollars in European trading on Thursday, smashing a previous peak of 1.3469 set on December 7.

The single European currency reached the new record summit against the dollar in the wake of weak US data, before easing to 1.3470 dollars around 1415 GMT from 1.3385 late on Wednesday in New York, analysts said.

US consumer spending, the dynamo of the economy, rose by a weaker-than-expected margin in November, the start of the crucial holiday sales period, the government said Thursday.

Expenditures advanced by a seasonally adjusted 0.2 percent in November, disappointing many Wall Street analysts who had predicted a gain of 0.3 percent.

Spending had advanced 0.8 percent the previous month.

Consumer spending is pivotal because it drives two-thirds of US economic activity.

CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (December 23, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	BC
61.3000	61.3500
82.8224	82.8500
118.2908	118.3871
47.5995	47.5383
0.5978	0.5983
53.8806	53.9246
9.5179	9.5257
49.9389	49.9796
7.8848	7.8912
37.5383	37.5689
16.8282	16.8419
16.4787	16.4902
11.5536	11.5630
208.6453	208.8155

TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT/OD	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
61.3000	61.3500	USD	60.3550	60.1777	60.1057
82.8224	82.8500	EUR	80.0850	79.8498	79.7542
118.2908	118.3871	GBP	114.9823	114.6446	114.5742
47.5995	47.5383	AUD	45.3970	45.2636	45.1955
0.5978	0.5983	JPY	0.5760	0.5743	0.5736
53.8806	53.9246	CHF	51.8469	51.6946	51.6328
9.5179	9.5257	SEK	8.4596	8.4347	8.4247
49.9389	49.9796	CAD	48.2415	48.0998	48.0423
7.8848	7.8912	HKD	7.7483	7.7255	7.7162
37.5383	37.5689	SGD	36.6732	36.5156	36.4719
16.8282	16.8419	AED	16.3020	16.2541	16.2347
16.4787	16.4902	SAR	15.9659	15.9200	15.9010
11.5536	11.5630	DKK	10.4048	10.3742	10.3618
208.6453	208.8155	KWD	197.4967	196.9166	196.6809

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor krona	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.78	59.55	104.6	39.055	6.1888	0.7822	3.80

STOCK

TODAY'S TRADED ISSUES									
December 23, 2004									
DSE					CSE				
Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	Price	Change (%)	Turnover	Share	Company	FV/ML (Tk./No.)	Price	Change (%)
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