

Europe prepared to do business with Bush

AFP, Brussels
Europe will be all ears next week when George W Bush stages the first overseas trip of his second term to learn whether the US president means what he says about reaching out to old allies.

talks with the NATO military alliance, which after its own crisis over Iraq is now pulling together to help stabilise the country.
But the spirit of rapprochement is threatened by new divisions, such as Iran's nuclear ambitions and EU moves to lift an arms ban on China, as well as old sores like climate change.
The United States remains profoundly suspicious of Iran's activities in the nuclear field. But as with the issue of global warming, and unlike on Iraq, the United States cannot count on the support of

Britain over Iran.
To allay fears that Iran is building the bomb, Britain and its fellow EU heavyweights France and Germany are negotiating with the Islamic republic to try to bring its nuclear activities into a regime of tough UN supervision.
London has categorically ruled out the prospect of using force to make Iran comply, in contrast to more mixed signals emanating from powerbrokers in Washington.
US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice swept through Europe last week on a pre-summit

charm offensive that nevertheless laid bare US fears that the EU trio are going too easy on Iran.
And on climate change, British Prime Minister Tony Blair said last weekend that he would do his "damnedest" to bring the world's biggest polluter on board despite Bush's refusal to endorse the Kyoto Treaty to curb greenhouse gases.
"The visit of President Bush is mainly focussed on ways in which we will be able to work together," European Commission chief spokeswoman Francoise Le Bail said.



G7 growth sharply lower than expected in Q4: OECD

AFP, Paris
OECD chief economist Jean-Philippe Cotis said on Thursday that growth in G7 countries was running at an annual rate of 1.5 percent in the last quarter of last year.

PHOTO: CRAB
Chairman of Credit Rating Agency of Bangladesh (CRAB) M Syeduzzaman, Vice-chairman Md Matiul Islam and Managing Director Anwaruddin Chowdhury pose for photographs along with others at the first annual general meeting of the company on Tuesday in Dhaka.



PHOTO: BGIC
MA Samad (3rd-L), chairman of Bangladesh General Insurance Company Ltd (BGIC), speaks at the closing ceremony of a two-day annual conference of the company's branch and zonal managers on Sunday in Dhaka. Among others, Kalim Sharafi, vice-chairman, and AKAH Chaudhury, managing director of the company, were present at the function.



PHOTO: JANATA BANK
Managing Director of Janata Bank SM Aminur Rahman hands over a crest to one of the delegates of Islamic Development Bank (IDB) recently in Dhaka. The bank and the delegation held talks to promote export business between OIC countries and Bangladesh. Janata Bank is acting as national agent of IDB in Bangladesh for export financing scheme.

CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (February, 17, 2005) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	BC
63.8000	63.8500
84.0182	84.081
121.0988	121.1937
50.8614	50.9012
0.6145	0.6149
54.4694	54.5121
9.7545	9.5821
52.1199	52.1608
8.1879	8.1943
39.0477	39.0783
17.5111	17.5248
17.1487	17.1621
11.6935	11.7027
219.1687	219.3404
TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc
62.5050	62.3214
80.7940	80.5566
117.0969	116.7529
48.2976	48.1558
0.5891	0.5874
52.1875	52.0342
8.4896	8.4647
50.1002	49.9530
8.0058	7.9822
37.9071	37.7957
16.8814	16.8318
16.5357	16.4871
10.4980	10.4471
206.3552	205.7491
OD Transfer	
62.2468	
80.4602	
116.6132	
48.0981	
0.5867	
51.9720	
8.4546	
49.8932	
7.9727	
37.7505	
16.8116	
16.4874	
10.4546	
205.5029	

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.67	59.395	99.365	38.550	6.4058	0.7644	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading
Local interbank FX market was quite idle on Thursday. Dollar was traded within range against Bangladeshi Taka in the inter-bank market.

Local Money Market
Money market was active. Call money rate came down a little and ranged between 5.00 and 7.00 per cent compared with 6.00-8.00 per cent previously.

International Market
The dollar sluttered on Thursday after Greenspan provided no surprises in his congressional testimony as he mentioned that the fed funds rate remained low in real terms despite recent hike. The dollar was down 0.18 per cent against the euro and 0.11 per cent against the yen. The dollar has eased about 2.5 per cent against the euro since last week, when it hit a three month high at 1.2730. The market reacted little to Bank of Japan's decision to keep monetary policy unchanged. However, cable gained 0.2 per cent against the greenback after the strong retail sales data for January came out. Market was awaiting to scrutinise US weekly jobless claims and US import-export prices data for January for further clues on the state of US economic growth and inflation.

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SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 17/2/2005.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt Of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/1	Anodad Naree	Wheat (P)	Ukra	SSTL	27/1	19/2	2332
J/2	Paujjing	GI (St. Bil)	Viza	Mutual	15/2	19/2	2333
J/3	Kallisto	Wheat (P)	Argen	Mutual	30/1	19/2	1355
J/5	Genco Reliance	Candla	Sing	USL	7/2	20/2	1631
J/6	Tong Shan Hai	Clink	Nant	MBL	11/2	20/2	3740
J/7	Karadeniz-S	Wheat (P)	Darb	Total	6/2	22/2	1356
J/8	Lady Juliet	M.S. Bilets	Turk	Lams	16/2	19/2	695
J/9	Oel Enterprise	Cont	Hald	PSSL	16/2	18/2	112
J/10	Mellum	Cont	Tanj	QCSL	14/2	18/2	268
J/12	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	15/2	19/2	81
J/13	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	14/2	17/2	17
CC/1	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	16/2	19/2	221
CC/2	Van Xuan	Cont	Sing	PSSL	14/2	17/2	51
CC/3	Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	13/2	18/2	23

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
FV: Sor Khiem Thong-7	17/2	Bang	Oil	Fishing Trawler	
Ocean Pride	17/2	Viza	PSAL	Potash Feldstar	
Banga Biraj	17/2	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
New Blessing	18/2	P. Kel	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Soil Lead Tide	17/2	Sing	IBSA	Dr. Equip	--
Jeannie-iii	17/2	Cebu	ASLL	Clink	Cemex
Al Muztuba	17/2	Yang	Cla	Rice (P)	--
Pha Shwe Gyawya	19/2	Yang	MTA	GI (Y. Ma)	--
Susan Anne	18/2	--	Jnship	Rice (P)	--
Honeywa	19/2	Yang	MTA	Rice (P)	--
Antoine	18/2	Nant	USL	Clink	Unit/Scbl
Qc Dignity	18/2	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve	18/2	Col	Everbest	Cont	Col
Brave Royal	19/2	Thai	BRSL	Clink	Royal/Mi
Amat	22/2	Viza	Total	Rice (P)	--
Rong Cheng	19/2	Xing	Cosco	GI	--
Oel Freedom	19/2	Pip	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Pu Cheng	19/2	Xing	Cosco	GI	--

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Padang Halapan	18/2	Tylicorin	Seacom	C. Soda (Lal/RM/4)	
Andhika Ashura	18/2	Lumut	Rainbow	Cpol (RM/3)	
Platinum	19/2	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Ms	
Atalanta	20/2	Dumai	MTCL	Cpol	
High Power	21/2	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1	
Prubo Enu	21/2	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Sko	

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Rig Ocean Sovereign	--	Sing	Beeline	18/11
Gulfhill-9	Pr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	27/11
Dea Captain	--	--	IBSA	R/A (28/1)
Wira Keris	Dr. Equip	Sing	IBSA	R/A (14/2)
Onda	Crude Oil	Rast	OWSL	16/2
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	16/2
Advance Pescadores	GI (St. C)	Yang	Everett	17/2
Straits Express	Vehi	Sing	Nyk	17/2
Soo Kwang	GI (Paper)	Busa	Prog	17/2

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

STOCK