

US-Russia deal on WTO possible before G8 summit

AFP, Moscow

Washington and Moscow are in tense "endgame" negotiations on Russia's accession to the World Trade Organization, with US endorsement of Russia's WTO membership bid possible before the G8 summit in July, a senior Western diplomat said Thursday.

"We actually are very close to a bilateral agreement between the United States and Russia on WTO," the diplomat, who is well informed on the current

status of US-Russian WTO negotiations and who spoke only on condition that he not be named, told a small group of journalists.

On Monday, the top-ranking US senator said at a news conference in Moscow that Russia's stance on policy issues ranging from the Iran nuclear impasse to development of democracy would "color" the US Congress' decision on whether to sign off on the US Congress' going to the WTO.

Putin, who plays host to this year's Group of Eight (G8) summit, set WTO membership for Russia as a key strategic priority soon after he succeeded Boris Yeltsin as president in 2000.

His comments came a week after Russian President Vladimir Putin had complained that the United States, the last major economy yet to approve Moscow's WTO candida-

"I don't think you are going to see



PHOTO: SINGER

Chairman and Managing Director of Singer Bangladesh Limited Mahbub Jamil speaks at the company's quarterly sales review meeting held in Dhaka on Wednesday and Thursday. Director and COO Hamim Rahmatullah, Marketing Director Sajidur Rahman Khan and Marketing Services Director Mokbul Ahmed were also present.



PHOTO: AD SIGN

Hanif Zakaria, area manager of Emirates in Bangladesh, receives the Best Staff Award from Kazi Wahidul Alam, chairman of Dhaka Travel Mart-2006, at the concluding ceremony of the Standard Chartered Dhaka Travel Mart, an international tourism fair, at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel recently.

dacy, is posing new criteria and shifting the goal posts for its approval of the Russian bid.

On Monday, the top-ranking US senator said at a news conference in Moscow that Russia's stance on policy issues ranging from the Iran nuclear impasse to development of democracy would "color" the US Congress' decision on whether to sign off on the US Congress' going to the WTO.

"That's the basis ultimately on which the US Congress is going to do," he said.

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Oil prices slip

AFP, London

Oil prices fell on Thursday but remained close to 70 dollars in London owing to concerns about global supplies.

In London, the price of Brent North Sea crude for June delivery lost 33 cents to 69.53 dollars per barrel in electronic dealing. The May contract expired on Wednesday.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for delivery in May, dropped 34 cents to 68.28 dollars per barrel.

Brent crude had Wednesday reached an all-time peak of 69.97 dollars on news of falling US gasoline stockpiles, combined with heightened tensions over Iran.

Brent has been striking record high points since Monday on market concerns that the United States might launch military strikes at uranium facilities in Iran, the world's fourth largest producer of crude.

The US Department of Energy, meanwhile, revealed Wednesday that gasoline or petrol inventories slumped by 3.9 million barrels to 207.9 million in the week to April 7.

Correction

In a photo caption published on this page yesterday, it was inadvertently printed that the 19th annual general meeting of Delta Life Insurance Company was held in Cox's Bazar recently. Actually, it was the 19th annual general conference of the company. We regret the mistake.



PHOTO: BENCHMARK

Jafrud Alam Khan, national sales manager (retail) of Transcom Electronics, hands over the ticket of Disneyland Package Tour to Babul Akhter, who won the prize on purchasing a 21" Philips Plasma TV from the company's Mirpur outlet, at a function on Wednesday. Transcom Electronics has brought in an offer titled 'Philips Keno World Cup Jao' (buy Philips go to World Cup).



PHOTO: AD SIGN

Managing Director of Channel i Faridur Reza Sagor, and Md Zahurul Islam, proprietor of Ad Sign, an advertising agency, jointly cut a cake to mark the 18th founding anniversary of the agency in Dhaka recently.

CURRENCY

Following is Thursday's (April 13, 2006) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy	OD Transfer			
		TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT/Clean
69.5200	69.5500	USD	68.4500	68.4272	68.3816
86.3706	85.4074	EUR	81.7909	81.7636	81.7091
122.5777	122.6306	GBP	118.6170	118.5775	118.4984
51.7576	51.7800	AUD	49.0923	49.0760	49.0432
0.5943	0.5945	JPY	0.5740	0.5738	0.5734
54.1517	54.1751	CHF	52.2280	52.2106	52.1758
9.3703	9.3747	SEK	8.5340	8.5311	8.5254
61.1649	61.1913	CAD	58.9984	58.9788	58.9395
8.9812	8.9851	HKD	8.8027	8.7998	8.7939
44.0949	44.1139	SGD	42.3708	42.3567	42.3284
19.0816	19.0898	AED	18.4855	18.4793	18.4670
18.6837	18.6917	SAR	18.1061	18.1000	18.0880
11.7458	11.7509	DKK	10.6675	10.6639	10.6568
234.6498	234.7532	KWD	232.8778	232.8025	232.6519

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee Pak rupee Lankan rupee Thai baht Nor kroner NZ dollar Malaysian ringgit

45.06 60.015 102.62 38.190 6.4914 0.6233 3.68

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Thursday. Demand for USD remained soft.

Local Money Market

Money market was active on Thursday. Call money rate rose on the day and ranged between 25.00 and 30.00 percent compared with 12.00-17.00 percent previously.

STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 13/4/2006

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Bounty-7	Gl(Log)	Yang	PML	11/4	17/4	1307
J/3	Htne Ywa	Gl(Y Ma)	Yang	MTA	6/4	13/4	690
J/4	Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	8/4	13/4	--
J/5	Sea Master One	Cont	P.Kel	PML	10/4	15/4	--
J/6	Xuan Cheng	Gl	Sing	Cosco	9/4	14/4	1942
J/7	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Bandhi	9/4	15/4	--
J/9	Bangler Robi	Cont	Col	BSC	7/4	11/4	31
J/10	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	7/4	13/4	188
J/11	Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	7/4	13/4	186
J/12	New Blessing	Cont	P.Kel	Cel	10/4	16/4	--
J/13	Qc Dignity	Cont	Sing	QCSL	8/4	15/4	250

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Pagan	14/4	Yang	MTA	Gl(Log)	--
Samir	13/4	Lumut	Lumond	C.Clink	--
Zebra	14/4	Mong	TMBL	J.Goods	U/Latakia
Cape Bonavista	14/4	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	P.Kel
Bilim	14/4	Chenn	RSA	Gl(St.Bill)	--
Bbc Ostfriesland	14/4	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borat	14/4	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Bijoy	14/4	Col	Bandhi	Cont	Col
Ocean Blue	14/4	P.Kel	Everett	Vehi	08 Pkgs
Shitang	14/4	Sing	Intraport	Scraping	--
Osg Bosstec	15/4	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col
Oel Freedom	15/4	PTP	PSSL	Sing	Sing

Tanker due

Al Barakat-1	13/4	Dumai	MTCL	CPO
TCP	13/4	Dumai	Jnship	CPD(RM3)
Smooth Sea-7	15/4	P.Kel	Rainbow	CPD(RM3)
Al Sabiyah	15/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	HS/DMs
Pontoklydon	20/4	Isabela	Bdship	Phos.Acid Cuf

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
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Outside Port Limit

Wira Keris	--	Crude Oil	Rast	IBSA
Thistle	C.Oil	--	OWSL	8/4

Vessels not ready

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