

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.

"I certainly think it's possible to get a bilateral deal, with effort on both sides, before the G8 summit in Saint Petersburg" in mid-July, the diplomat said.

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 candi-

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 Russian accession to the WTO.

The diplomat however downplayed that.

"I don't think you are going to see

that kind of linkage," he said, adding that eventual approval or disapproval by the US Congress of Russia's WTO membership bid would be based "on the merits of the trade deal" and nothing else.

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

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.



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: TRIUNE

Hanif Zakaria, area manager of Emirates in Bangladesh, receives the Best Stall 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.

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

Jafrul 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 Zahirul 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				
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer	
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	18.0860	
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.						

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	GI(Log)	Yang	PML	11/4	17/4	1307				
J/3	Htone Ywa	GI(Y. Ma)	Yang	MTA	6/4	13/4	690				
J/4	Kota Petani	Cont	Sing	Pii(Bd)	8/4	13/4	--				
J/5	Sea Master One	Cont	P. Kel	PML	10/4	15/4	--				
J/6	Xuan Cheng	GI	Sing	Cosco	9/4	14/4	1942				
J/7	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	9/4	15/4	--				
J/9	Banglar Robi	Cont	Col	BSC	7/4	11/4	31				
J/10	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pii(Bd)	7/4	13/4	188				
J/11	Kota Ratna	Cont	Sing	Pii(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	GI(Log)	--						
Sanim	13/4	Lumut	Litmond	C. Clink	--						
Zebra	14/4	Mong	TMML	J. Goods	L/Latakia						
Cape Bonavista	14/4	P. Kel	Bdship	Cont	P. Kel						
Bibim	14/4	Chenn	RSA	GI(St. Bil)	--						
Bbc Ostfriesland	14/4	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing						
Banga Borat	14/4	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing						
Banga Bijoy	14/4	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col						
Ocean Blue	14/4	P. Kel	Everett	Vehi	08 Pkgs						
Shilang	14/4	Sing	Intraport	Scraping	--						
Osg Bosstec	15/4	Col	Seacon	Cont	Col						
Oel Freedom	15/4	PTP	PSSL	Cont	Sing						
Tanker due											
Al Barakat-1	13/4	Dumai	MTCL	Jnship	CPO(RM/3)						
TCP	13/4	Dumai	Jnship	Rainbow	CPO(RM/3)						
Smooth Sea-7	15/4	P. Kel	Rainbow	MSTPL	HSD/MS						
Al Sabiyah	15/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	Bdship	Phos. Acid Cuf						
Stolt Orchid	20/4	Isabela	Bdship	Phos. Acid Cuf							
Vessels at Kutubdia											
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent					Date of arrival			
Outside Port Limit											
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA					R/A(12/4)			
Thistle	Crude Oil	Rast	OIWSL					8/4			
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	BSC					R/A			
Vessels at outer anchorage											
Vessels ready											
Oel Excellence	Cont	--	PSSL					R/A(10/4)			
Banga Borak	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi					11/4			
Bonvoy-lli	CPO	Lumut	Rainbow					12/4			
Banglar Moni	Cont	Col	BSC					12/4			
Ocean Park	Cont	Sing	Seacon					12/4			
C.P.33	CPU	Indo	USL					12/4			
Independent Spirit	Cont	Sing	APL					10/4			
Vessels not ready											
Tai Bahat	Wheat(P)	P. Said	Able					9/4			
Jag Vikram	G. Slag	Viza	Saraf					10/4			
Pontoklydon	GI(St. Scrap)	Sing	Everett					13/04			
Vessels awaiting employment/instruction											
Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom					10/11/2004			
Xpress Manaslu	--	P. Kel	Seacon					R/A(21/12)			
Express Resolve	--	Col	Seacon					R/A(21/12)			
Banga Barta	Ballast	Col	Baridhi					10/3			
Power	--	--	Saraf					R/A(1/14)			
Amanat Shah	--	--	Cia					R/A(6/14)			
The above are the yesterday's shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.											

STOCK