

Key WTO players to meet in Paris May 17-18

AFP, Geneva

The four key players in the WTO's long-running round of trade liberalisation talks -- the European Union, the United States, India and Brazil -- will meet in Paris on May 17-18, a European source said here on Monday.

Representatives from the "G4" group -- EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, Indian Trade Minister Kamal Nath and Brazilian Foreign Affairs Minister Celso Amorim -- will hold discussions in an embassy in the French capital, the source said.

The four last met in New Delhi in mid-April but failed to reach a deal on agriculture, which has stymied global trade talks since the Doha Development Round was launched in the Qatari capital in 2001.

Within the G4, the United States and the European Union have engaged in bitter arguments over trade in agricultural goods, with Brussels demanding more reductions in US farm subsidies and Washington insisting that proposed European tariff cuts do not go far enough.

At the New Delhi meeting, the ministers agreed only to aim for a compromise by mid-June.

The Paris meeting will follow a larger ministerial gathering to

discuss the World Trade Organisation impasse on the margins of the annual meeting of the 30-member Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) in the French capital on May 14-15.

A further G4 meeting is planned in London on June 10, and subsequent talks are also scheduled some time between June 14-19, though the location has yet to be

Special bank panel to grill Wolfowitz

AP, Washington

World Bank President Paul Wolfowitz, fighting to keep his job, is arguing that the poverty-fighting institution's ethics officials were aware of his role in helping secure a promotion and pay raise for his girlfriend, who was on the bank's staff.

A special bank panel investigating his handling of the 2005 promotion of bank employee Shaha Riza was scheduled to hear from Wolfowitz on Monday. The controversy has prompted calls for Wolfowitz's resignation. The

determined.

Japan and Australia are at the same time trying to organise a meeting of their two countries along with the G4 for May 23 in Tokyo, but so far little headway has been made, the European source said.

The two countries could be invited to join the G4 negotiations in Paris and in London once the four-party talks have been concluded, the source added.

Myanmar-Thai trade up over 50pc in FY '07

XINHUA, Yangon

Bilateral trade between Myanmar and Thailand increased by about 51 percent to 2.4 billion US dollars in the just-ended fiscal year of 2006-07 (April-March) compared with the previous fiscal year the local English-language Myanmar Times reported Monday.

With Myanmar enjoying a trade surplus of 1.9 billion dollars, the Myanmar-Thai bilateral trade accounted for 30 percent of Myanmar's total foreign trade, the weekly quoted an official of the Ministry of Commerce as saying.

Thailand remained as Myanmar's top trading partner for 2006-07, in which Myanmar's foreign trade reached 7.4 billion dollars, the report added.

In the fiscal year 2005-06, Myanmar-Thai bilateral trade, which includes the border trade, amounted to 1.596 billion dollars with Myanmar's import from Thailand taking up 237 million dollars and its export to Thailand representing 1.359 billion dollars, according to official figures.

Meanwhile, Myanmar is building a border trade zone in Myawaddy, which links Thailand's Maesot, as part of its process of transforming border trade system into normal trade one. The Myawaddy border trade zone stands as the second largest one of its kind after the Muse 105th Mile Border Trade Zone bordering China's Ruili in Yunnan province.

Fareast Finance okays 12.5pc dividend

Fareast Finance & Investment Ltd, a leasing and financial company, declared 12.5 percent dividend in the form of bonus share for its shareholders, says a press release.

The dividend was approved at the company's sixth annual general meeting held in Dhaka on Thursday.

The meeting also disclosed that the company earned a net profit of Tk 2.25 crore after tax in 2006.



PHOTO: GREY WORLDWIDE

Syed Manzur Elahi, chairman of Apex Adelchi Footwear Ltd, presides over the 17th annual general meeting (AGM) of the company held in Dhaka on Thursday. Managing Director Syed Nasim Manzur, Foreign Director Sergio Adelchi and Independent Director Samson H Chowdhury, were also present.



PHOTO: EBL

Eastern Bank Limited (EBL) Managing Director (MD) Mahmood Sattar inaugurates the Gulshan Kiosk, a mini bank that provides banking services, in Dhaka on Sunday. Additional MD Ali Reza Iftakhar and Head of Consumer Banking Mashrur Arefin are also seen among other senior officials.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (April 30, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell		CURRENCY	Buy		
TT/OD	BC		TT CLEAN	OD SIGHT DOC	OD TRANSFER
69.7200	69.7500	USD	68.7500	68.7271	68.6813
96.5552	96.5968	EUR	92.3038	92.2730	92.2114
140.7507	140.8113	GBP	135.6094	135.5642	135.4738
59.1574	59.1829	AUD	55.5500	55.5315	55.4945
0.5970	0.5972	JPY	0.5714	0.5712	0.5708
58.8752	58.9005	CHF	55.9443	55.9257	55.8884
10.9036	10.9083	SEK	9.8352	9.8319	9.8254
63.6015	63.6289	CAD	60.9648	60.9445	60.9038
8.9345	8.9383	HKD	8.7703	8.7673	8.7615
46.9337	46.9539	SGD	45.0879	45.0729	45.0428
19.1381	19.1463	AED	18.5675	18.5613	18.5490
18.7359	18.7440	SAR	18.1869	18.1808	18.1687
13.3791	13.3849	DKK	12.0443	12.0403	12.0322
237.7577	237.8621	KWD	236.0903	236.0139	235.8612

EXCHANGE RATES OF SOME CURRENCIES AGAINST US DOLLAR

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor. kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit
40.78	60.66	109.95	34.780	5.9565	0.7394	3.42

Local Market

FX: Local interbank FX market was active on Monday. USD was stable against Bangladeshi taka.

Money Market

Money market was active on Monday. Call money rate was stable and most of the deals ranged between 6.75-7.25 percent.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 30/4/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Di of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/3	Eid-A-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki	Cla	23/4	6/5	170
J/5	Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	Bsc	28/4	2/5	256
J/6	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	28/4	2/5	256
J/7	Xiang Jiang	Gi	Inch	Cosco	29/4	4/5	2312
J/8	Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bdship	26/4	30/4	--
J/9	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	27/4	1/5	88
J/11	Pacific Express	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	26/4	30/4	67
CCT/1	Gao Cheng	Cont	Sing	Pml	28/4	1/5	--
CCT/3+2	Rhone Borg	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	27/4	1/5	--
GSJ:	Golden Star	Urea(BCIC)	Sing	Litmond	26/4	3/5	--
TSP:	Zara-III	R. Sulp	B. Abb	Seacom	27/4	4/5	--
RM/3	Borak	Bitumen	Haid	Fsa	25/4	1/5	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banglar Umi	30/4	Viz	Olm	Slag Bulk	--
Cape Spencer	30/4	Sin	Pssl	Cont	Col
Josco View	30/4	P. Kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Ocean Blue	1/5	Yokohama	Everett	Vehi	1 Pkgs
Banga Borti	30/4	P. Kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Kota Ria	1/5	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Cape Bonavista	1/5	Pkl	Bdship	Cont	P. Kel
Rio Lawrence	1/5	Sing	Qcsl	Cont	L/Ptp
Olive Ace	1/5	Brazil	Rsship	Scraping	--
KS Harmony	1/5	Kant	Ancl	Cement (M)	--
Hansa London	1/5	Mong	Pssl	Cont	Sing
Eagle Progress	1/5	P. Kel	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Wisdom	1/5	Sing	Apl	Cont	Sing
Lynx	2/5	--	Everett	Sp. Cargo (Def)	--
Banglar Moni	2/5	Yang	Pml	Gi (Leg)	--
Eagle Prestige	2/5	Sing	Qcsl	Cont	Ptp/Sing
Libre	2/5	Yang	Rainbow	R. Seed	--
Banga Borat	3/5	Sin	Bdship	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Starling	30/4	Dumai	With	Cpo(Rm/3/4)
Al Sabiyah	2/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd
Bw Havsol	3/5	Viza	Mbl	Ammonia
Gulf Sleb	4/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd

Vessels at Kutubdia

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

Sea Drill-6 (Rig)	Pro. Equip	--	Ibsa	8/1
Gulf Dril-9 (Barge)	Pr. Equip	--	Ibsa	3/1
Pacific Steel	P. Equip	--	Ibsa	R/A (29/4)
Pacific Champion	--	--	Ibsa	R/A (27/4)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Tasco-1	Bitumen	Mala	Mmsl	25/4
Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	29/4
Maritime Chiangmai	C. Clink	Tanj	Bsl	29/4
Magda-T	--	Ukra	Ksm	21/4

Vessels not ready

Sea Dream	Feldspar	Sing	Royal	29/4
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Vessels awaiting employment / instruction

B. Sea	Ballast	Kaki	Intraport	16/3
Asrar-A- Mostofa	--	--	Cla	R/A (17/4)
Qing Jiang	--	--	Cosco	R/A (29/4)

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



PHOTO: FAREAST FINANCE

M A Khaleque, chairman of Fareast Finance and Investment Ltd, presides over the company's sixth AGM held on Thursday.

STOCK