

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

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.

Special bank panel to grill Wolfowitz

AP, Washington

bank's 24-member board is expected to make a decision in the case this week.

Wolfowitz, an architect of the Iraq war in his preceding Pentagon job, will cite a Feb. 28, 2006, letter that his attorney characterizes as showing that bank's ethics committee had looked at the arrangement.

The panel's chairman, Ad Melkert, said in the letter that an allegation relating to "a matter which had been previously considered by the committee did not contain new information warranting any further review."

Meanwhile, Myanmar is building a border trade zone in Myawaddy, which links Thailand's Mae Sot, 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.

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 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 Thailand's import from Myanmar's import from Thailand taking up 237 million dollars and its export to Thailand representing 1.359 billion dollars, according to official figures.

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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

TT/OD	BC	CURRENCY	Buy	
			TT/CLEAN	OD SIGHT DOC
69.7200	69.7500	USD	68.7500	68.7271
96.5552	96.5968	EUR	92.3038	92.2730
140.7507	140.8113	GBP	135.6094	135.5642
59.1574	59.1829	AUD	55.5500	55.5315
0.5970	0.5972	JPY	0.5714	0.5708
58.8752	58.9005	CHF	55.9443	55.9257
10.9036	10.9083	SEK	9.8352	9.8319
63.6015	63.6289	CAD	60.9648	60.9445
8.9345	8.9383	HKD	8.7703	8.7673
46.9337	46.9539	SGD	45.0879	45.0729
19.1381	19.1463	AED	18.5675	18.5613
18.7359	18.7440	SAR	18.1869	18.1808
13.3791	13.3849	DKK	12.0443	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 ringgit
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	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J3	Eid-A-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki	Cla	23/4	6/5	170
J5	Bangler Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	Bsc	28/4	2/5	256
J6	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	28/4	2/5	256
J7	Xiang Jiang	Gl	Inch	Cosco	29/4	4/5	2312
J8	Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	Bosph	26/4	30/4	--
J9	Banga Bodor	Cont	P. Kel	Baridhi	27/4	1/5	88
J11	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	Qsl	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	Hald	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
Bangler Urmii	30/4	Viz	Olm	Stag Bulk	--
Cape Spencer	30/4	Sin	Psl	Cont	Col
Josco View	30/4	P.Kel	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Ocean Blue	1/5		Yokohama	Everett	1Pkgs
Banga Borti	30/4	P.Kel	Baridhi	Cont	P. Kel
Kota Ria	1/5	Sing	Pkl	Cont	Sing
Cape Bonavista	1/5	Sing	Qsl	Cont	P. Kel
Rio Lawrence	1/5	Sing	Rsship	Scraping	L/Pt
Olive Ace	1/5	Brazil	Kant	Cement(Mi)	--
KS Harmony	1/5	Mong	Psl	Cont	Sing
Hansa London	1/5		Everbest	Cont	Sing
Eagle Progress	1/5	P.Kel	Apl	Cont	Sing
Wisdom	1/5	Sing	Sp. Cargo(Def)	Cont	--
Lynx	2/5		Everett	Sp. Cargo(Def)	--
Banglar Moni	2/5	Yang	Pml	Gil(Leg)	--
Eagle Prestige	2/5	Sing	Qsl	Cont	Ptpt/Sing
Libre	2/5	Yang	Rainbow	R. Seed	--
Banga Borat	3/5	Sin	Bdship	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Starling	30/4	Dumai	Wth	Cpo(Rm/3/4)
Al Sabiyah	2/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd
Bw Havol	3/5	Viza	Mstpl	Ammonia
Gulf Sieb	4/5	Kuwa	Mstpl	Hsd

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Sea Drill-8 (Rig)	Pro. Equip		Ibsa	8/1
Gulf Drill-9 (Barge)	Pr. Equip		Ibsa	3/1
Pacific Steel	P. Equip		Ibsa	R/A(29/4)
Pacific Champion	--	--	I	