

Key WTO players meet for 'decisive' talks in Germany

AFP, Potsdam, Germany

open the world up further to trade. "It's not an innocent choice" of the venue, the Geneva-based diplomat noted, adding that the EU was seeking to heighten the historical resonance of the meeting.

Contemporary concerns will be evident, with agricultural and anti-globalization campaigners due to protest outside the Cecilienhof on Tuesday.

The so-called "G4" group will meet "with their backs against the wall," said a Geneva-based diplomat, with all players mindful that a similar meeting last year got nowhere and ultimately led to negotiations being suspended for all of the WTO's 150 members.

The talks are expected to continue until the weekend.

Germany, which holds the EU presidency until the end of this month, invited EU Trade Commissioner Peter Mandelson, US Trade Representative Susan Schwab, Indian Commerce Minister Kamal Nath and Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim to meet at the Cecilienhof palace in Potsdam.

Amorim has warned that this meeting would be "decisive".

The delegates will certainly feel the weight of history on their shoulders, as it was at Cecilienhof that the Allied leaders Churchill, Stalin and Truman met in 1945: the issue then was the division of post-war Europe after the defeat of Nazi Germany. The purpose of these talks now is to

support for agricultural markets along with the level of protection against imports, primarily in the EU and the United States.

Rich nations are also looking for more concessions from developing nations on access to their markets for industrial goods or for services companies.

The WTO is now hoping to reach an agreement by the end of the year. Under the organisation's rules, it must be approved by consensus and even a single dissenting voice can block it.

Even so, agreement between the G4 members is seen as crucial if any final deal is to be reached.

On Monday, EU commissioner Mandelson urged the 27 members of the bloc to allow him maximum flexibility in the talks, in the hope of reaching a deal.

"If each partner negotiates to the limits of their flexibility," then the talks will be a success, Mandelson told EU foreign ministers in Brussels.

Alternatively there could be the sort of "incremental progress" which falls short of an agreement, in which case a further G4 meeting could be held in July.

The Bank of Japan last week unanimously kept its benchmark rate at 0.5 percent and gave no sign it was in any hurry to raise it.

Yen falls to new lows against euro, dollar

AFP, Tokyo



Trust Bank Ltd organised a workshop on retail banking in Dhaka on Saturday. Ishtiaque Ahmed Chowdhury, deputy managing director of the bank inaugurated the session, while Syed Aminul Kabir, deputy country manager of India's ICICI Bank, was the key speaker and Md Ahsanullah, head of retail banking of Trust Bank, among others, was present at the workshop.



Young Consultants, a local private consulting house specialised in business, finance, marketing, entrepreneurship development and training, organised a workshop on 'Sound Feasibility Study--Benefits for Banks and Financial Institutions' recently in Dhaka. Salauddin Ahmad, adviser to the consulting firm, and M Zakir Hossain, its chief executive, among others, were present at the workshop.

CURRENCY

Following is Tuesday's (June 19, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Major currency exchange rates		Exchange rate of some currencies	
BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US dollar	69.35	68.35	
Euro	94.61	90.22	
Pound	138.89	134.01	Indian rupee 40.56 1.70
Australian dollar	59.86	56.25	Pak rupee 60.64 1.14
Japanese yen	0.57	0.55	Lankan rupee 110.89 0.62
Swiss franc	56.74	53.74	Thai baht 34.58 1.99
Swedish kroner	10.45	9.33	Malaysian ringgit 3.44 20.03
Canadian dollar	65.96	63.11	USD forward rate against BDT
Hong Kong dollar	8.89	8.72	Buy Sell
Singapore dollar	46.15	44.33	1 M 68.45 69.46
UAE dirham	19.04	18.46	2 M 68.57 69.67
Saudi riyal	18.64	18.08	3 M 68.72 69.89
Danish kroner	13.09	11.80	6 M 69.15 70.60
Kuwaiti dinar	237.35	234.55	* All currencies are quoted against BDT
			* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction
			* The forward rates are indicative only and fixed dated.
			Local Market
			the USD remained unchanged against Bangladeshi taka. The volume of cross currency transactions remained steady.
			FX: Local inter-bank FX market was active on Tuesday. The demand for USD was stable and

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 19/6/2007

Berth	Name of vessels	Cargo	L.Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Bangler Mookh	Gl(Log)	Yang	PML	16/6	26/6	883
J/3	Kian Satu	Gl	Koah	Banvil	14/6	20/6	1611
J/4	Asraf-A-Mostafa	Rice(P)	Kaki	Cla	8/6	19/6	1795
J/5	Bi Ro Bong	Rice(P)	Kaki	HSA	12/6	--	823
J/7	Ju Yong Guan	Gl	Chin	Cosco	10/6	21/6	2513
J/8	Hun Jiang (Liner)	Gl	Ping	Cosco	12/6	24/6	1655
J/9	Dongphong	Gl(Hrc/Pa)	Sing	JF	16/6	21/6	358
J/10	Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	16/6	20/6	--
J/12	Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	18/6	21/6	372

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of arrival	L.Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Vn Saphire	19/6	Sing	Jardine	Cont	Sing
Mir Damad	19/6	Chenn	BSC	Cont	Kol
Maris	19/6	Lumut	Litmond	C.Clink	C.Clink
Pan Express	19/6	Kohsi	ASLL	Gl	--
Yong Jiang(Liner)	22/6	Para	Par	Cont	Cbo
Banga Bonik	20/6	Col	Bandhi	Cont	Sing
Banga Borat	20/6	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Mol Karina	20/6	P.Kel	Seacon	Cont	Sing
Arya Payam	20/6	Braz	USL	R.Sugar	--
Yongxing	21/6	Col	PSSL	Cont	Col
Pearl River	20/6	Cana	Rainbow	Wheat	--
Apil Lilac	20/6	Sing	APL	Cont	Sing
Asian Star-1	20/6	Kohsi	Saraf	C.Clink	--
Scan Bulker	21/6	Aust	Mutual	Gl(Pulse)	Cont
Dongtai Peral	21/6	P.Kel	CT	Sing	Cont

Tanker due

Khadijah	20/6	Belw	MTCL	CPO
Pro Victor	20/6	--	PSL	W/Ld Naptha
Tabtim	21/6	Indo	Jnship	CPO
Al Badiyah	21/6	Kuwa	MSTPL	RMS

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A(13/6) 12/6
Trust Fortune	Wt(P)/R.S.	Vanc	USL	

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Eagle Progress	Cont	P.Kel	Everbest	17/6
Yong Yue-8	Cont	P.Kel	Seacon	18/6
Banga Borti	Cont	P.Kel	Bandhi	18/6
Ja Vesta	Cont	P.Kel	Vega	18/6
Phu Tan	Cont	Sing	BSC	18/6
Tay Son-4	Gl	Sing	All Seas	19/6
Theratana-3	L.B.Oil	Thai	MMSL	19/6
Al Deerah	HSD/Jp-1	Kuwa	MSTPL	17/6

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

STOCK