

Thai shrimpers press for WTO complaint against US tariffs

AFP, Bangkok

Thai shrimpers Monday urged the government to press ahead with plans to file a complaint with the World Trade Organization over US tariffs, warning exports could fall by one-third in the first half of 2006.

The Commerce Ministry had already prepared a complaint against the United States over its barriers to Thai shrimp, but put the filing on hold after Washin-

gton said it would revise its tariffs by mid-March, the Thai Shrimp Association said.

"The US had asked the ministry to delay the filing to WTO, saying they would remove the bond by mid-March. But it seems they are likely to miss the deadline," the head of the association, Somsak Paneethayasai said.

"So we expect the government to move ahead with the WTO filing after March 15," he told AFP.

The United States imposes an average 5.95 percent duty on Thai shrimp. To guarantee payment, Washington also requires shrimpers to pay for a "continuous bond" equal to the total export value of the shrimp.

That shrimpers complain that the bond payment is too steep, and Somsak said exports to the United States would likely fall by 30 percent in the first half of the year.

In 2005, about 150,000

tonnes of Thai shrimp were shipped to the United States, Thailand's largest shrimp export market, up from 130,000 tonnes in 2004.

Thailand is the world's biggest shrimp exporter with a total of 280,000 tonnes worth 70 billion baht (1.79 billion dollars) shipped overseas in 2005.

The United States imports nearly 90 percent of its shrimp, the number one seafood consumed by Americans.



PHOTO: ASIATIC MARKETING

Students of an educational institution in Dhaka perform on the second day of a promotional campaign for '7up Ice', the newly introduced mint flavoured drink of Pepsi family, organised by Transcom Beverages Ltd, the official franchisee of Pepsi in Bangladesh, on Sunday.

Unilever Bangladesh wins two awards

Unilever Bangladesh Ltd, the leading fast moving consumer goods (FMCG) company in the country, has won two prestigious Unilever awards for building distinctive capabilities in customer management and in recognition of its outstanding performance.

Sanjiv Mehta, chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh, received the awards on behalf of the company from Harish Manwani, president of Unilever Asia, Africa, Middle East and Turkey (Asia-AMET) region, at a function in Dubai recently, says a press release.

The senior leadership team of Unilever Asia-AMET region, as well as chairmen of all 27 operating companies in the region attended the function.

Unilever Bangladesh won the awards in the 'Best Customer Development Country' and the 'Best Distributor Management' categories among all the operating companies in the Asia region.

Sanjiv Mehta, commenting on the awards said, "It is a matter of great pride that Unilever Bangladesh has won these prestigious awards ahead of other Unilever operations in the region."



PHOTO: GRAMEENPHONE

Md Jahangir Alam, managing director of Matador Group, and Mir Rashedul Hossain, deputy head of Corporate Sales of GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, among others, pose for photographs at an agreement signing ceremony recently. Under the deal, GP will provide complete communication facilities under its 'Business Solutions' package for Matador Group.

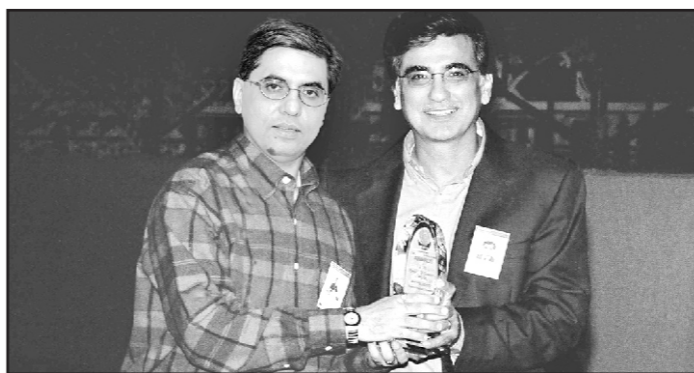


PHOTO: UNILEVER BANGLADESH

Sanjiv Mehta (L), chairman and managing director of Unilever Bangladesh, receives awards on behalf of the company from Harish Manwani, president of Unilever Asia, Africa, Middle East and Turkey (Asia-AMET) region, at a function in Dubai recently.



PHOTO: BANGLALINK

Monirul Kabir, direct sales manager of mobile phone operator Banglalink, inaugurates a 'Banglalink Point' at Upashahar in Sylhet recently. The point will provide facilities of new connection, scratch card, SIM (subscriber identity module) replacement, bill collection and handsets for subscribers.

CURRENCY

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

Sell						Buy		
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer			
72.2200	72.2500	USD	71.1500	71.1263	71.0789			
87.2273	87.2636	EUR	83.9072	83.8792	83.8233			
125.6267	125.6789	GBP	121.5954	121.5548	121.4738			
54.0567	54.0791	AUD	51.2992	51.2821	51.2479			
0.6151	0.6153	JPY	0.5945	0.5943	0.5939			
55.5239	55.5470	CHF	53.5970	53.5791	53.5434			
9.5602	9.5642	SEK	8.7234	8.7205	8.7147			
62.9149	62.9410	CAD	60.7341	60.7139	60.6734			
9.3256	9.3294	HKD	9.1454	9.1423	9.1362			
45.3330	45.3518	SGD	43.5968	43.5823	43.5532			
19.8249	19.8331	AED	19.2167	19.2103	19.1975			
19.4119	19.4200	SAR	18.8228	18.8165	18.8039			
12.0417	12.0467	DKK	10.9588	10.9551	10.9478			
243.9658	244.0692	KWD	241.7952	241.7170	241.5604			

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai baht	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
44.4	59.98	102.675	39.075	6.6815	0.6428	3.72

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank FX market was active on Monday. Demand for USD continued to remain high in the market.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 13/3/2006

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Shan Hai Guan	GI	Inch	Cosco	9/3	14/3	2888
J/2	Blue Star	Rice(G)	Kaki	Saraf	6/3	13/3	1081
J/3	Tai Cang Hai	GI(St. Bl)	Chenn	RSA	10/3	15/03	5322
J/5	Xiang Jiang	GI	Xian	Cosco	11/3	16/3	958
J/6	Hellos-2	GI(Log)	Yang	PML	8/3	13/3	1386
J/7	Banga Borti	Cont	Sing	Bdship	8/3	13/3	1
J/8	Win Moony	Urea(Boic)	Qatar	Seacom	3/3	13/3	893
J/9	Banglar Shikha	Cont	P. Kel	BSC	7/3	13/3	133
J/10	Kota Rukun	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	8/3	15/3	364
J/11	Banga Bijoy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	10/3	15/3	245
J/13	Germana	Cont	Sing	QCSL	7/3	15/3	369

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Banga Biraj	13/3	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Coastal Express	13/3	Kol	BSC	Cont	Chenn
Cape Bonavista	14/3	P. Kel	Bdship	Cont	P. Kel
Marisa Green	14/3	Pkl	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Oel Esteem	14/3	Pkl	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Oel Wisdom	14/3	Col	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Tim	15/3	Cebu	Ahz	Scraping	--
RSS-1	14/3	Indo	Pacific	C. Clink	Most
Asian Prime	14/3	Taiw	USL	C. Clink	MTC/Pre
Silver Bin	14/3	Nant	USL	C. Clink	Uni/Schl

Tanker due

Harmony	22/3	Jebel	OWSL	Crude Oil	--
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Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Afroditi	Crude Oil	Rast	SSST	4/3
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	--	BSC	R/A(11/3)
Wira Keris	--	--	IBSA	R/A(12/3)

Outside port limit

Banga Lanka	Cont	Col	Baridhi	10/3
Pu Trusty	Cont	P. Kel	Seacon	11/3
Ocean Park	Cont	Col	Seacon	11/3
Handy	GI	Sing	Cosco	12/3
Banglar Moni	Cont	Ptp	BSC	12/3
Qc Star	Cont	Sing	QCSL	12/3
Banga Borat	Cont	Sing	Bdship	12/3
Dawei	Cont	Sing	PML	12/3

Vessels at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Yaad-E-Mostafa	Sugar	Chenn	Cla	22/2
Carina-II	Sugar	Durb	Mutual	23/2
Ocean Venture	Sugar	Tuti	Mutual	2/3
Pha Shwe Gyaw Ywa		GI(Pu/Y.M)	Yang	M T A 11/3

Vessels not ready

AlBadiyah	HSD/MS	Kuwa	MSTPL	12/3
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Vessels awaiting employment/instruction

Bumi Jaya	--	Visa	Unicom	10/11/2004
Xpress Manaslu	--	P. Kel	Seacon	R/A(21/12)
Xpress Resolve	--	Col	Seacon	R/A(21/12)
Salamat-2	--	--	Nishat	R/A(20/2)
Salamat-3	Ballast	Yang	Nishat	4/3
Smooth Sea-7	--	--	Shorline	R/A(9/3)
Taraman Bibi	--	--	Nishat	R/A(10/3)

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet

STOCK