

# US imposes sanctions against Japan on cellular telephone

WASHINGTON, Feb 15: President Clinton's administration decided Monday to authorize sanctions against Japan on cellular telephones, officials said, increasing pressure on Tokyo after the collapse of trade talks, reports AP.

Clinton conceded trade war could erupt but warned Japan it stood to lose the most.

"It's just not acceptable for the United States to continue on the same path" after last week's breakdown in talks, Clinton said.

US officials from the president on down issued Tokyo some of the strongest warnings yet, following up quickly on last Friday's failed trade talks at a summit between Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa.

"We haven't ruled anything out," Clinton declared.

The move could lead to prohibitively high tariffs on Japanese-made instruments and set the stage for sanctions in other areas as well.

Although the cell-phone case, stemming from complaints by Motorola Inc., had

been in the works for some time, the administration found it fit conveniently into its efforts to ratchet up pressure on Tokyo.

Clinton called it a "classic example" of the difficulties US companies face in penetrating Japanese markets.

In 1989, Japan agreed to give Motorola from one-third to one-half of its cellular phone business in the Tokyo area. But Motorola officials contend Japan deliberately ignored the bargain, holding the company's percentage of business under five per cent.

Many options are under review, not all involving sanctions, said the officials.

These range from ordering a Justice Department study on anti-competitive practices of Japanese auto companies to giving closer scrutiny to tax records of Japanese companies. The United States is also considering bringing a broad complaint in Geneva against Japanese trade practices under the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, officials said.

The administration could

also dust off a punitive trade law not used since the early days of the Bush administration, known as Super 301, that gives the president broad powers to retaliate against unfair trade practices of any nation.

Tokyo has always resented the measure, viewing it as being specifically written with Japan as its prime target.

Clinton could renew the dormant authority by executive order. But aides said this would be done only as a last resort, suggesting other, less inflammatory, approaches were being eyed first.

However, a Congressional source, who also spoke on condition of anonymity, said that he expected the administration would announce later this week that it was renewing the Super 301 process by executive order. The administration would draw up a list of "priority countries" for possible trade sanctions based on an annual review of unfair trade barriers that is issued by the government by March 30 each year.

Clinton promised "a decision within the next few days" on the overall US response to the collapse of trade talks.

"There are a number of options open to us, including some that have not been widely discussed that may offer great promise," Clinton said without elaborating.

Japan had a 120 billion dollar trade surplus with the rest of the world last year, roughly half of it with the United States.

**'Dispute won't affect other issues'**

Another report adds: The impasse over trade will not affect US-Japanese cooperation on security, political or cultural issues, US State Department officials said Monday.

"In an adult relationship, you can walk and chew gum at the same time," said Timothy Wirth, State Department counselor who oversees global issues. He said cooperation on a wide variety of issues would continue despite last week's breakdown of trade talks.

## Belarus workers demand PM's resignation

MINSK, Belarus, Feb 15: More than 2,000 workers rallied Tuesday on Independence Square in the centre of the Belarussian capital to kick off a general strike demanding the prime minister's resignation and new elections, reports AP.

Although the government has banned all demonstrations on the square, police made no attempt to break up the rally.

Labour unions and opposition political parties charge that Prime Minister Vyacheslav Kebich's government is corrupt, pro-communist and opposes free-market reforms.

They are demanding Kebich's ouster, formation of a coalition government and multiparty elections across the Slavic nation of 10 million people.

One of the strike's organizers, Viktor Babayev, said last week that tens of thousands of workers at 22 large enterprises were planning to join the walkout.

But it was unclear Tuesday whether the protest was really widespread. Both the workers' Strike Committee and the government said they were unable

to provide figures on the number of striking workers or factories.

Belarus, which is west of Russia and north of Ukraine, has been slow to begin economic and political reforms. Labour leaders called the strike after the Belarussian parliament voted last month to replace its chairman, Stanislav Shushkevich, who was the country's highest official.

Shushkevich was considered an economic reformer, but he faced strong resistance from the Soviet-era parliament. Although he was ousted in a corruption scandal, his allies claimed he was a victim of a conservative backlash.

His successor, Mechislav Grib, is a former Communist Party member and Belarussian police general who believes in strong measures to restore order.

Grib denounced the strike. It was initiated "not by workers, but from above — the statewide Strike Committee and the opposition Belarussian Popular Front pursuing their own political goals, which have nothing to do with the interests of ordinary workers," he said, according to Interfax.

## Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on February 14.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	EC	OD	Transfer
US Dollar	40.1225	40.1525	39.9200	39.8360
Pound Sterling	59.5338	59.5783	58.7892	58.4638
DM	23.3527	23.3702	22.9904	22.9419
F Franc	6.8606	6.8658	6.7558	6.7206
C Dollar	29.7917	29.8140	29.3247	29.2630
S Franc	27.6945	27.7152	27.2618	27.2044
Jap Yen	0.3946	0.3949	0.3846	0.3838
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2825	1.2863	1.2722	1.2664
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3210	1.3250	1.3203	1.3242
Iranian Ryal (AMU)	0.0232	0.0233	0.0230	0.0227

A) T.T. (D.O.) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 39.8780	
B) Usance Rates:	
30 Days DA - 39.2885	90 Days DA - 39.0057
60 Days DA - 39.2885	120 Days DA - 38.7230
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk 39.8360	
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk 40.5525	

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

## Shipping Intelligence

Berth position and performance of vessels as on: 14-2-1994

Berth	NoName of vessels	CargoLast port	LocalDate of Leaving
J/1	* Rong Jiang	GI Sing	14/2
J/2	* Moskovskity	Tuti ANCL	07/2
J/3	* Calatagap	D Peas Cal	16/2
J/4	* Marine Three	Cement Tuti	15/2
J/5	* Danyang	Cement Rish	15/2
J/6	* Gold Finch	MOPI MSA	20/2
J/7	* Hang Cheong	Cement Sing	06/2
J/8	* Shaplaevett	GI Sing	10/2
J/9	* Hang Wan	Cement S Hai	11/2
J/10	* Dolores	Idle Sea	25/2
J/11	* PU Aspiration	Cement Sing	18/2
J/12	* Qun Chong Nyon	Cement Sing	18/2
J/13	* Banglar Robi	Cont Mong	12/2
MPB/1	* Eponyma	Cont Sing	11/2
MPB/2	* Adrian Goncharov	Cont Sing	11/2
CGJ	* Arcadia	C Clink V/B	10/2
CSJ	* Al Tabith	Wheat(G) K/Da	17/2
TSP	* Iokasti	Cement Tuti	11/2
RM/4	* Global Mars	CPU Sing	13/2
RM/5	* Hawk	HSD Sing	12/2
RM/9	* Banglar Jyoti	C Oil Sing	16/2
DOJ	* Banglar Asha	Repair Sing	16/2

Essels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading
Ingenuity	14/2	Col	BTSA	Cement	Mong
Sea Venture	14/2	Sing	AML	Cement	
Al Taisir	14/2	Sing	BSL		
Saadi	14/2	Sing	BSL		
Banglar Baani	15/2	Mong	BSL		
Georgios-M	15/2	Sing	SSST		
Fong Shin	15/2	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
I Yamurenko	15/2	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Blue Ocean	15/2	Cal	Cross	Pulses	Sing
Imke Wehr	17/2	Sing	Anti	Cont	USA Fe
Banglar Moni	17/2	Sing	BSL		Sing
Robert-e-Lee	17/2	Sing	Karma	GI(Lash)	
San Mateo (Roro)	17/2	Sing	JF	Vehicles	
Kornat	17/2	Sing	SSST	Wheat(G)	
Golden Lake	17/2	Sing	Prog	Cement	GI
Eastern Trader	17/2	Sing	Litmond	Wheat(G)	
Cherry	18/2	Sing	BSL		
Dorlane	18/2	Sing	BSL		
United Spirit	18/2	Sing	PSAL	Cement	
Infinity	19/2	Sing	BSL		
Meng Kiat	18/2	Sing	BSL		
Tiger Hope	18/2	Sing	BSL		
Luna-11	19/2	Sing	Prog	Wheat(G)	
Ivan Vazov	19/2	Const	OTL	GI	P Land
Vislava Parjat	20/2	Sing	SSL	GI	UK Cont
Tanary Star	20/2	Sing	USTC	Cement	
Fong Yun	20/2	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Qing He Cheng	20/2	Sing	BDShip	Cont	C Ports
Kota Buana	21/2	Sing	BSL		
Meng Lee	21/2	Sing	AML		
Lanka Mahapala	22/2	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Pine Trust	23/2	Sing	Prog	Wheat(G)	

Tanker due

Global Star	16/2	Sing	Seacom	(RM/3)
Chang	16/2	Sing	MSPL	(RM/6)
Team Storevick	16/2	Sing	MSPL	(RM/6)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Chestnut Hill	Wheat(G)	Sing	BSL	11/2
Al Reza	Wheat(G)	Sing	BSL	R/A

Vessels ready

* Ronjay Victory	Cement	Vna	USTC	7/1
* Morning Star	M Seed	IPVank	CCNL	13/2
* Salem Nine	SPP	Aldab	MSA	13/2

Vessels not ready

Hang Loy	Cement	Sing	Nihat	9/2
Super Venture	MOP	Sing	LYC	13/2

Vessels awaiting instruction

Loyal bird	Sing	Seacom	15/11
Banglar Shourab	Sing	BSL	R/A
Samudra Samrat	Sing	BSL	R/A

Vessels not entering

Philla	Cement	Chin	Seabreeze	11/2
Akademik Semenov	HSD(P)	Sing	QCSL	27/12
Sonne	Crew	Sing	Ancient	R/A

Movement of vessels for 14-2-1994

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
J/4	Marine Three	J/13
J/5	Dan Yang	J/11
J/11	PU Aspiration	J/11
RM-3	Global Mars	RM-9
RM-5	Hawk	RM-9

The above were the Monday's shipping position and performance of vessel of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

## S Korean workers seeking wage hikes

SEOUL, Feb 15: The broad-based Korea Federation of Trade Unions (KFTU) is seeking wage hikes of between 6.6 and 10.8 per cent this year, following a 5.8 per cent consumer price increase in 1993, it said Monday, reports AFP.

The umbrella organisation of labour unions will stage its demand when it starts talks with the Korea Employers Federation (KEF) later this month, the KFTU spokesman said.

The KEF, the KFTU's opposite number, reportedly wants to hold wage hikes down to between five and 7.9 per cent, but KEF officials said they had not yet finalised their figures.

Wage hike agreements between the KFTU and KEF have traditionally served as a guideline to both state and private firms in this country.

Last year, workers and managers of most business employing 100 workers or more agreed on wage hikes ranging between 4.7 per cent and 8.9 per cent, in line with an agreement between the KFTU and KEF.

The government and the KEF have said they are anxious to try to curb wage increases and minimize any possible associated labour unrest to keep Korean exports, now benefiting from the high value of the yen, competitive abroad.

Wage-related strikes at Hyundai subsidiaries last year cost the company millions of dollars in export revenue.

## UN launches fund for Africa

NAIROBI, Feb 15: The United Nations has launched a fund to help Africa's scientific research and development, a senior official said Monday, reports AP.

Federico Mayor, Director General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, or UNESCO, was contributing one million dollar to the fund.

Mayor said the fund will be called the International Fund for the Technological Development of Africa.

## China will ban farmers selling grain directly to private sector

HONG KONG, Feb 15: China is to ban farmers from selling grain directly to the private sector in order to stabilize prices, it was reported Monday, reports AFP.

The central government has decided that all grain purchases from farmers would be monopolised by the state-run grain administration, which would also determine prices, the Beijing-run Wen Wei Po, quoting an informed source, said.

However, private entrepreneurs are to be allowed in the retailing of grain as part of the state's policy to open up grain sector.

The source said the central government wanted to maintain control of grain sources, in the belief that letting the private sector engage in procurement of grain directly from farmers could destroy the market's normal operations.

The new measure was taken following hikes in grain prices in November last year.

Analysts have attributed the soaring price to the unwillingness of farmers to sell their harvest to the state as they received less instead of cash for their crops.



US President Bill Clinton (C) shakes hands with Kazakhstan President Nursultan Nazarbayev (L) after signing a Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty at the White House yesterday. The treaty is designed to bar the spread of nuclear weapons and technology. — AFP photo

## Dollar, stocks plunge in Tokyo

TOKYO, Feb 15: The possibility of a US-Japan trade war jolted the Japanese yen to near-record levels against the dollar Tuesday, bringing back to life the specter of 'endaka' or 'high yen,' reports AP.

Prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange tumbled for the second day in a row as investors worried that the high yen would batter exporting firms and snuff out hopes for a Japanese economic recovery.

The dollar finished at 102.02 yen, down 3.67 yen from its finish at 105.69 yen in Tokyo Monday and below its overnight finish in New York at 102.65 yen. Japanese financial markets were closed Friday for a national holiday.

That left the dollar barely above its record low close in Tokyo of 101.25 yen set last August and more than 10 yen below its level on January 24.

Players are speculating that the Clinton administration wants a higher yen after trade talks between President Clinton and Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa in Washington collapsed last week.

Market players interpreted as tacit US approval for a higher yen a comment Monday by Laura Tyson, chairwoman of

the US Council of Economic Advisers, that the dollars drop shouldn't have a significant impact on US price levels.

"(American) political intentions are having a strong impact," said Shozo Motomura, a dealer at Sakura Bank.

In effect, observers said, a high yen acts as another form of economic sanctions on Japan in addition to the steps Clinton in already planning. Washington decided Monday to authorize sanctions against Japan on cellular phones.

A higher yen would theoretically help reduce the 60 billion dollar US-Japan trade imbalance — the biggest issue between the two sides — by making Japanese exports to the United States more expensive and American exports to Japan cheaper.

After shooting up in early trading, the yen stabilized at mid-day thanks to 'aggressive, repeated dollar-buying' by Japan's central bank, said Ayako Hashimoto, a dealer with Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank.

The central bank withholds comment on its monetary actions.

But in the final hour the yen resumed its climb as dealers speculated that US monetary authorities would not join the

Bank of Japan in intervening. "So long as the United States doesn't do anything, all we can do is sell the dollar. I think it could be going for a new low," said Motomura.

The yen's rise sent shivers through the stock market for the second straight day. A higher yen hurts exporters by digging into overseas earnings they convert into yen.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average lost 484.65 points, or 2.49 per cent, to end at 18,974.60. On Monday, the index plunged 531.45 points, or 2.66 per cent, closing at 19,459.25.

Kazuaki Harada, the head of Sanwa Research Institute, estimated that is the dollar continues to be traded at around 100 yen, compared with 110 yen just a few days ago, Japan's already feeble economic growth would slow by 0.7 percentage points in the next year.

Hideyuki Okoshi, an analyst at Yamaichi Securities, said whether the Nikkei falls further depends on the yen.

The dollar settles down at around 105 yen, as I expect it will, then I think it's difficult to conceive that stocks will be sold off further, he said.

## Fish imports in France blocked till June

LE GUILVINEC, France, Feb 15: While the government Monday pledged to block fish imports until June, leaders of fishermen whose violent strike forced the action pleaded for more aid for smaller operators, reports AP.

Talks between the fishermen's Survival Committee and regional officials in Quimper, Brittany, were held on the eve of a crucial rank-and-file meeting in this depressed port, headquarters of the strike movement.

"They must return to the sea. They're sinking themselves," said Le Guilvinec's mayor, Xavier Charlo, after the talks.

In Paris, the government said that stringent measures to check fish imports, criticized by foreign exporters as an unofficial quota that lets their fish rot, will remain at least until June.

The checks were adopted after a violent clash between fishermen and riot police in Brittany's provincial capital, Rennes, during a visit February 4 by Prime Minister Edouard Balladur. The provincial parliament building was gutted by

a fire of unknown origins.

The strike has calmed since, with boats in many regions putting back to sea. But the fishermen remain on land in Le Guilvinec, and Charlot said the fish-based regional economy was hurting.

In the talks Monday, Charlot said he was asked by fishermen to help get more aid for small operators and to expand warehouse space for food pouring in from supportive farmers.

Tuesday's vote will be a crucial test to see whether the boats put back to sea. Fishermen with boats under 12 metres (36 feet) have so far rejected ending the strike.

They say they were helped a little by the import controls, new European Union price supports for some species, and 300 million francs (50 million dollar) in aid pledged by Balladur.

The Survival Committee, led by Dominique Lapart, has demanded another meeting with Balladur to help end the protests that began February 1. The import controls have drawn protests from the United States.

## Head of French Pay-TV channel resigns

PARIS, Feb 15: Andre Rousselet, the chairman of France's pay-television channel Canal Plus and a close friend of President Francois Mitterrand, resigned Monday over disagreements concerning a reshuffling of stakes in the group last week, reports AP.

Rousselet, one of Canal Plus' cofounders, had already resigned Friday from the board of Havas SA, an advertising firm which owns 23.5 per cent of the encoded channel.

Rousselet, 71, took issue with Havas' decision to combine its 23.5 per cent stake in Canal Plus with the 20.1 per cent owned by France's Compagnie Generale des Eaux.

Rousselet stormed out of a Havas board meeting Thursday following the decision, which he apparently viewed as a threat to his managerial autonomy.

Most of Canal Plus' programming is scrambled, and viewers must pay a monthly fee for a decoder box to connect to their televisions. It specializes in broadcasting movies and major sports events, but also has news and variety shows.

## Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 15, 1994

## Beximco leads losers

Star Report

The losers, led by the Beximco Ltd in terms of volume, heavily dominated the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Tuesday.

The Beximco led 26 losers out of 45 issues traded while the Bangladesh Oxygen topped the list of 10 gainers in terms of volume. The share prices of nine other issues remained unchanged.

The Beximco's 9100 shares were traded at the rate of Taka 59.67 against Taka 65.24 of the previous day, a decline of Taka 5.57 per share.

The Bex