

World's 4 trading powers agree to resolve tariff problem

GENEVA, Feb 23: The world's four top trading powers yesterday agreed to move by the end of this week to resolve a tariff problem that could threaten the timing of final signature of last December's GATT World Trade Accord, reports Reuters.

Officials from the United States, the European Union, Japan and Canada told reporters they all hoped to submit schedules for their delayed tariff offers covering thousands of products to GATT by the end of this week.

But there were signs that there were still problems between them — and particularly between the United States on the one side and Japan and the European Union on the other — that could still up the process.

Trade sources said that at a special meeting on Tuesday with delegation heads from

many of the 118 countries involved in seven-year Uruguay Round, GATT Chief Peter Sutherland told the four — the so-called quad — they had to act quickly.

Diplomats from other countries said the four, and particularly the United States, came under strong criticism at the session for failing to meet an original deadline of February 15 to submit their schedules.

A senior Japanese negotiator said last week the delay had been caused by a U.S. effort to withdraw some concessions it had tabled before the round was concluded on December 15.

U.S. officials said their proposals then had been conditional on Japan coming up with better offers — especially in the area of wood, leather footwear and white spirits — and suggested they would cut

back their proposals on electronics.

Sutherland was understood to have insisted firmly at Tuesday's meeting that December offers could be improved — meaning tariffs could be lowered further — but not reduced or withdrawn altogether.

The schedules have to be added to the vast text of the round accord and form part of the final treaty.

The treaty, which includes a broad liberalisation of world trade in goods and services, is due to be signed by ministers in Marrakesh, Morocco, on April 15 at a meeting which will set the next agenda for the trade watchdog.

Sutherland, whose General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade is due to be absorbed into a new World Trade Organisation (WTO) under the accord, told Tuesday's meeting

there could be no alteration to that date, diplomats said.

The United States acting Ambassador to GATT, Andy Stoler, told reporters before the meeting the American delay was due to technical problems. "This is not a political issue. We are not trying to renegotiate anything," he added.

He said the U.S. schedules would be in with GATT for a month-long process of checking if they matched what other countries thought had been agreed in the round "hopefully by the end of the week."

European union GATT Envoy Tran Van-Thin told reporters the EU schedules would be submitted late on Tuesday, but trade diplomats said they could include some blanks to be filled in later when the lists from the other quad countries were in.

ME talks resume

PARIS, Feb 23: Palestinian and Israeli officials resumed negotiations here yesterday on the economic status of the future autonomous areas of Jericho and the Gaza Strip.

The two sides said little, but a Palestine Liberation Organisation document obtained by AFP in Tunis said the PLO was seeking "symbols of economic independence from the Paris talks after failing to win similar attributes in the political field on Israeli withdrawal, crossing points and security."

The Paris talks resumed Monday afternoon after a break of more than a month and are taking place in three working groups dealing with trade and labour, direct taxation and banking and finance.

The officials will be joined on Wednesday by Israeli Finance Minister Avraham Shohat and PLO economic chief Abu Ala.

The officials here said customs and trade would be at the centre of the negotiations, but gave no details.

Shohat was to stay in Paris until Saturday and the Israeli delegation was to stay over the weekend. Officials said they might work non-stop to reach an agreement now that most political obstacle to a final autonomy accord have been lifted.

During previous Paris sessions of the talks, advances were made on direct taxation while Israel offered facilities for farm exports from the occupied territories to Israel and a reduction in the price of consumer goods, notably cars for the Palestinians.

In Tunis, PLO officials quoted by the daily Al Hayat called the Paris talks crucial to defining the scope of the interdependence of the Palestinian autonomous entity with Israel and the Arab countries.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies effective as on February 22.

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	TT & OD	EC	OD	Transfer
US Dollar	40.1220	40.1520	39.9205	39.8365
Pound Sterling	59.3404	59.3848	58.5798	58.4566
DM	23.3822	23.3997	23.0199	22.9715
Franc	6.8812	6.8864	6.7792	6.7409
C Dollar	30.1816	30.2042	29.7090	29.6464
S Franc	27.8048	27.8256	27.3711	27.3134
Jap Yen	0.3860	0.3863	0.3763	0.3755
Indian Rupee (AMU)	1.2825	1.2863	1.2722	1.2564
Pak Rupee (AMU)	1.3193	1.3233	1.3086	1.2925
Iranian Rial (AMU)	0.0229	0.0230	0.0227	0.0224

A) T. T. (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk 39.8785	
B) Usance Rates:	
30 Days DA	60 Days DA
90 Days DA	120 Days DA
180 Days DA	
39.5718	39.2890
39.0062	38.7234
38.1579	
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Tk. 39.8365	
D) US Dollar 3 months forward sale: Tk. 40.5520	

Note: AMU—Asian Monetary Union.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of Leaving
J/1	San Mateo (Roro)	SPS	Albany	JSF	21/2 23/2
J/2	Salem Nine	SPS	Albany	JSF	13/2 27/2
J/3	Tiger Hope	GI	BUSA	Prog	18/2 23/2
J/4	Al Tahir	Wheat (G)	UKRA	BHL	R/A 27/2
J/5	Gold Finch	MOPI	UKRA	MSA	04/2 27/2
J/6	Hang Cheong	Cement	Sing	PSAL	06/2 26/2
J/7	Qing He Cheng	Cement	UKRA	S.Hai	BDShip 22/2 26/2
J/8	Iokasti	Cement	TUTU	Litmond	01/1 28/2
J/9	Dolores	Idle	Seacom	R/A	28/2
J/10	Cherry	Wheat (G)	Aust	SSST	18/2 25/2
J/11	Kota Bwana	Cant	Sing	RSL	22/2 25/2
MP/1	Hang Wan	Idle	S.Hai	BDShip	31/1 25/2
CSJ	Arcaida	C.Clink	Vtza	CSL	10/2 23/2
GGJ	Bangla Asha	Wheat (G)	—	BSC	R/A 25/2
RSP	Georgios-M	R.Phos	Aqaba	SSST	15/2 27/2
TMP	Ronjary Victory	Cement	Vtza	USST	07/1 28/2
RM/4	Gemini	Cement	Sing	MSPL	20/2 23/2
DDJ/1	Blue Ocean	Idle	Cal	Cross	18/2 24/2
RM/9	Oun Chong Nyon Ho Cement	Idle	Sing	Litmond	03/2 25/2

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Last port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading
Doranne	24.2.94	Hald	MEI	Wheat (P)	P.Land
Ivan Vazov	23.2.94	Const	OTL	—	—
Ifigenia	23.2.94	Sing	PSAL	Cement	Cont
NGS Ranger	23.2.94	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Lanka Mahapala	24.2.94	Mong	Baridhi	Cont	Colombo
Visviba Parjat	26.2.94	Cal	SSS	GL	UK Cont
Pine Trust	24.2.94	—	Prog	Wheat (G)	Cont
Banglar Nobi	25.2.94	Sing	EB	Cont	Sing
Eponymy	25.2.94	Sing	CTS	Cont	Sing
Alexander Perederty	25.2.94	—	Seacom	Clinker & Gypsum	—
Alissa	24.2.94	—	Bright	Cement	—
Myongyang 2	25.2.94	—	PSAL	Cement	—
Meng Lee	25.2.94	Sing	AMU	Cont	Cal
Dage	26.2.94	—	OTL	Cement	—
Andrian Goncharov	26.2.94	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Ultima	1.3.94	CEO	BTS	Cont	Col/Mg
I. Yamburenko	3.3.94	Sing	CT	Cont	Sing
Fong Shin	3.3.94	Sing	BDShip	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni	3.3.94	Sing	EB	Cont	Sing
Infinity	4.3.94	Sing	RSC	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Neptune Arica	24.2.94	Sing	EOSL	Naphtha

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Kamlesh	C.Oil	Jebe	Archangel	22/2
*Banglar Jyoti	C.Oil	—	EB	R/A

Vessels at Kutubdia/Outside port limit

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
*Dooyang Brave	C.Clink	Vish	CCNL	16/2
*Eastern Trader	Cement	Sing	Litmond	17/2
*Fong Yun (Cont)	Cont	Sing	BDShip	22/2
*Commandant Bori	Cont	Col	—	23/2

Vessels ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Hang Loy	Cement	Sing	Nishat	9/2
Banglar Baani	Wheat (G)	Sing	EB	R/A (18/2)
Luna II	Wheat (G)	Sing	Prog	19/2
Sea Nymph	Cement	Vtza	PSAL	19/2
Tanary Star	Cement	Tutti	USST	20/2
Al Reza	Wheat (G)	—	BHL	R/A (20/2)

Vessels awaiting instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Loyal Bird	—	Mong	Seacom	15/11
Banglar Shourabh	—	—	EB	R/A (3/2)

Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Samudra Samrat	—	—	BHL	R/A (9/2)
Phulia	Cement	Chin	SBS	11/2
United Spirit	Cement	Sing	PSAL	18/2
Chestnut Hill	Wheat (G)	Sing	BHL	16/2
Lord Caribico	Scraping	Dabao	UMAL	20/2
Akademik Semenov HSD (P)	—	Sing	QCS	17/2

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The plan involves setting up a whale sanctuary south of 40 degrees south latitude. The United States, Australia, New Zealand, Britain and Germany are among the many backers.

The International Whaling Commission is to vote on the plan in May at a formal meeting in Mexico.

Three-fourths of the 39 voting members would have to vote for the plan for it to pass.

Greenpeace observer John Frizell admitted "concern about the numbers" but was more hopeful.

He noted the Solomon Islands, an ally of Japan which wants to resume whaling, did not plan to attend the May meeting.

He was also buoyed by strong statements in favour of the sanctuary from Russia and South Korea.

India, Mongolia review progress of economic reforms

NEW DELHI, Feb 23: India and Mongolia, allies of the former Soviet Union, have exchanged notes on the progress of their economic reforms in the post-cold war era, visiting Mongolian President Punsalmaagyn Ochirbat said on Tuesday, reports Reuters.

"We (both) are trying to create firm conditions for building a market democracy," Ochirbat told a news conference on the second day of his week-long visit.

Mongolian Minister for Trade and Industry Ts. Tsgot said Ochirbat was particularly watching the newly liberalised stock exchanges in India.

"We propose to have our own securities law by April when we can start trading," Tsgot told Reuters.

An Indian Foreign Ministry spokesman said Ochirbat would visit the Bombay Stock Exchange "to appraise himself of the latest developments in this area in our country."

Nearly 40 pc companies in Vietnam facing difficulties

HANOI, Feb 23: Fewer than 20 per cent of the 102 state companies operating in Ho Chi Minh City are profitable, according to a recent Department of Industry study cited Tuesday by the Vietnam news agency, reports AFP.

Department statistics showed that nearly 40 per cent were facing difficulties due to market instability, competition from smugglers and a lack of capital to replace obsolete equipment.

The most profitable companies were those specialising in the production of cosmetics, toothpaste, detergent and plastics.

But traditional sectors of state production in Ho Chi Minh City were in crisis, including paper-making, leather goods and shoes, in spite of efforts at diversification, the department said.

Nearly a quarter of businesses engage in such activities in the red and in need of urgent state assistance.



High-definition television (HDTV) monitors are displayed at an electric shop in Tokyo yesterday. Japan's Telecommunications Ministry is reconsidering its support of the analogue HDTV system, suggesting the ministry may back the rival digital HDTV system, a senior telecommunications ministry official said on Tuesday.

Vice Premier says China's economy to grow at about 9pc this year

BEIJING, Feb 23: Vice Premier Zhu Rongji said today that China's economy would grow at about nine per cent this year and for the next few years and that forcing the rate down would cause social instability, reports Reuters.

He was addressing reporters on the tarmac of Beijing's old airport just before he left in a special plane for Japan, where he will spend nine days meeting political and business leaders.

In 1993, China's Gross National Product grew by an annual 13 per cent, the highest rate in the world.

"China is aiming for fast, healthy and sustained economic growth and that, if the rate of growth was artificially forced down, it would cause social instability," he said.

In January, industrial output grew by 33.2 per cent over a year earlier or a seasonally adjusted 19.9 per cent, against 23.6 per cent for all of 1993.

Zhu said the economy was not overheating, adding that there have been no major problems with reform measures implemented since the start of this year and that prices, the market and public opinion were stable.

Asked to comment on press

France triples trade surplus

PARIS, Feb 23: France tripled its trade surplus to a record figure of 87.26 billion francs (15 billion dollars) in 1993, official seasonally-adjusted figures showed on Tuesday, reports AFP.

In 1992 the trade balance had shown a surplus of 30.9 billion francs, and in September the government had forecast that the surplus would be 39 billion francs. In 1993 the balance showed a surplus for every month.

The figures for December, produced by the Customs Department, showed that France had achieved a record monthly surplus of 13.2 billion francs from a surplus of 6.5 billion francs in November. Exports were worth 103 billion francs from 99 billion francs in November and imports 89 billion francs from 92 billion francs.

The figures for December were strengthened by particularly strong aircraft sales in respect of Airbus airliners worth 5.3 billion francs.

The fires showed that the record surplus was the result mainly of a fall in the amount of goods imported owing mainly to recession which had reduced demand by companies and by households in France.

The total value of imports on a raw basis was 1,091 billion francs which represented a decline of 10.4 per cent from the figure in 1992.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তার কার্যালয়

সিলেট বন বিভাগ

দ্বিতীয় পুনঃ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি

অত্র দপ্তরের টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-৮৫/বিবিধ-পূর্তকাজ-৯৩-৯৪ ইং এর স্বপক্ষে কোন টেন্ডার না পাওয়ায় সিলেট বন বিভাগের সিলেট রেঞ্জের শাহী ঈদগাহ বন বিভাগীয় বন বিভাগীয়া বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত লটারী সাইজের পার্শ্ব উল্লিখিত স্বাক্ষর আবেদন, পিলাস নির্মাণ, স্থাপন এবং কাটা তারের খোঁজা বেড়া প্রদান কাজের জন্য নিম্নলিখিতকর্তার কর্তৃত্ব পত্রিভুক্তি/জোলা বোর্ড/পারি টেন্ডার বোর্ড/জনস্বাস্থ্য ও প্রকৌশলী বিভাগ/সড়ক ও জনপথ বিভাগ/সিএমএস/রাজস্ব/ফার্মাসিউটিক্যাল/ডিপার্টমেন্ট এবং শৌরসভার প্রথম ও দ্বিতীয় সেশীর সাইনস্বাক্ষরী প্রতিষ্ঠিত ফার্ম/ফ্রিকারদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহরকৃত বামে টেন্ডার আহবান করা যাইতেছে। টেন্ডার আগামী ২৭/০২/৯৪ ইং তারিখ বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত বিভাগীয় বন কার্যালয়, সিলেট এবং বন সজ্জাক, কেন্দ্রীয় অফিস, বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকার কার্যালয়ে স্থাপিত টেন্ডার বাস্তবের মাধ্যমে গ্রহণ করা হইবে এবং ঐ দিন বেলা ১০-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত টেন্ডারদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) ১-১ কার্যালয়ে গ্রহণ টেন্ডার ও টেন্ডার বাস্তব দেয়া হইবে। টেন্ডার সিডিট প্রতিট নম্বর ৪০০/- (চারশত) টাকা মূল্যে (অফিসের মাধ্যমে) আগামী ২৬/০২/৯৪ ইং তারিখ বাক্স চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত (সরকারি ছুটির দিন ব্যতিত) নিম্নলিখিতকর্তার কার্যালয়ে এবং বন সজ্জাক, কেন্দ্রীয় অফিস, বন ভবন, মহাখালী, ঢাকার কার্যালয়ে হইতে গ্রহণ করা যাইবে। এতদসম্বন্ধে বিধির আধীনস্থ টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি শর্তাবলী ও অন্যান্য আভাব্য বিধির অত্র কার্যালয়ের টেন্ডার বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং ৯০০/বিবিধ-পূর্তকাজ-৯৩৯৪-৯৪, তার-১০/০২-৯৪ ইং পর্যালোচনাতে সেবিতে ও জানিতে পারা যাইবে।

কাজের তফসিল

ক্রমিক নং	রেঞ্জের নাম	কাজের স্থান	এলা	কাজের নাম ও বিবরণ	এটিমেটেড টাকার অংক	কার্য সম্পাদনের সময় (দিন)	টেন্ডার সিডিট এর মূল্য
১	১	২	৩	৪	৫	৬	৭

১) উক্ত সিলেট শাহী ঈদগাহ বন বিভাগীয় বন বিভাগীয়া বন্যপ্রাণী সংরক্ষণের জন্য ১১২টি জার সি. সি. পিলাস তৈরী এবং লত আঁঠিক সাপে নির্মিত পিলাসসহ সর্বমোট ২৯০টি পিলাস পরিবহণ ও বন্যপ্রাণী স্থাপন (সাইজ-৬-০"X৪"X৪")

২) কাটা তারের খোঁজা বেড়া প্রদান ৯৮৫৬/৯৪ ২০/বিশা দিন ৪০০/-

মোঃ গোলাম হাবিব
বিভাগীয় বন কর্মকর্তা
সিলেট বন বিভাগ

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Dhaka Stock Prices

At the close of trading on February 23, 1994

Beximco leads gainers

Star Report

The gainers, led by the Beximco Ltd in terms of value, dominated the floor of the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) on Wednesday.

The Beximco led 31 gainers out of 48 issues traded. The share prices of 13 issues incurred losses and other four remained unchanged.

The Beximco's 13000 shares changed hands at the rate of Tk 61.84 as against Tk 59.32 of the previous day.

The 6th ICB M Fund (1710), Bengal Food (888), BTC (2580), Zeal Bangla Sugar (4400), Rupan Oil (1500), BD Oxygen (3162), Ambee Pharma (2100) and the Monno Ceramic (1725) also experienced remarkable gains.

The Amam Sea Food, with a gain of Tk 45.00 per share, dominated the gainers list in terms of value.

The Beximco Pharma and the Green Delta Insurance Co Ltd also enjoyed gains in share prices.

The Eagle Star Textile led the losers in terms of volume. The company's 2400 shares were traded at the rate of Tk 15.63 as against Tuesday's Tk 17.47. Other significant losers were the Ashraf Textile (1500) and the Beximco Synthetic (2220).

Turnovers on the DSE declined. The volume suffered a loss of 57.12 per cent and the value decreased by 50.37.

Trading at a glance

DSE All Share Price Index 539.50/92
Market Capitalization Tk 2454799187.75
Turnover in Volume Tk 47956.75
Turnover in Value 6018074.75

Company's name	Change (per share)	Number of shares traded
3rd ICB M Fund	1.00	20
6th ICB M Fund	0.55	1710
Afrah Automobiles	0.20	50
Aziz Pipes	1.00	455
Eastern Cables	5.36	100
Atlas BD	1.05	100
BD Autocars	1.66	170
Quasem Drycells	0.13	1000
Renwick Jajneswar	2.00	15
B Thai Aluminium	3.05	13000
Amam Sea Food	45.00	5
Bengal Food	4.61	3888
BTC	1.55	2580
Dhaka Vegetable	0.08	75
Zeal Bangla Sugar	0.20	4400
Rupan Oil	0.23	1500
BD Oxygen	1.70	3162
Dulama Cotton	0.28	30
Ambee Pharma	1.03	2100
Beximco Pharma	27.23	35
Rahman Chemicals	1.50	100
BCIL	3.60	50
National Polymer	115.00	10
GG Ball Pen	0.17	700
Monno Ceramic	0.01	1725
Beximco Ltd	2.52	13000
Apex Footwear	4.26	820
BCIC	0.02	1690
Green Delta	19.00	80
United Insurance	9.56	520
B Infusion (Deb)	0.25	10

Gainers (31)

3rd ICB M Fund	1.00	20
6th ICB M Fund	0.55	1710
Afrah Automobiles	0.20	50
Aziz Pipes	1.00	455
Eastern Cables	5.36	100
Atlas BD	1.05	100
BD Autocars	1.66	170
Quasem Drycells	0.13	1000
Renwick Jajneswar	2.00	15
B Thai Aluminium	3.05	13000
Amam Sea Food	45.00	5
Bengal Food		