US trade deficit soars to all-time high

WASHINGTON, Mar 19: The US trade deficit soared to an all-time high of $17 billion in January as global financial troubles pushed American exports down further while imports of autos, consumer goods and food were climbing to record highs, reports AP.

The Commerce Department reported that the US trade deficit shot up 21 per cent from December's $14.1 billion level and surpassed the old monthly record of $16.7 billion set in August.

Economists believe the deficit in 1999 will easily surpass the record $169.3 billion imbalance set last year as the global financial crisis further depresses the ability of US manufacturers and farmers to sell in world markets.

Commenting on Thursday's report, Commerce Secretary William Daley noted that the decline in US exports was accelerating as the global troubles that began in Asia have now spread to Russia and Latin America.

"We must all focus on improving economic conditions abroad while ensuring that foreign markets are open to American firms," Daley said at a briefing.

Other reports Thursday showing low inflation and continued strong labour markets helped push stocks and bond prices higher on Wall Street.

In addition to the loss of markets for US exporters, the plunge in Currency Values and recessions overseas triggered a flood of products into the United States, which has continued to post strong economic growth despite the global troubles.

That strong growth has sent US unemployment to its lowest level in three decades despite the fact that manufacturing has eliminated 337,000 jobs over the past year.

In a separate report Thursday, the Labour Department said the exceptionally good labour conditions are continuing with the number of Americans filing first-time applications for unemployment benefits holding under 300,000 for the seventh consecutive week — the longest such streak since 1974. Claims last week were 298,000, up 6,000 from the previous week.

And the US economy has been benefits from the overseas troubles, especially on the inflation front where the flood of cheaper imports and weakened global demand for commodities such as oil has dampened prices.

Confirming that trend, the Labour Department said Thursday that consumer prices edged up just 0.1 per cent in February, leaving prices so far this year rising at a rate of just 1.1 per cent, even better than last year's 1.6 per cent.

The annual Branch Managers' Conference of Peoples Insurance Company Limited held at a city hotel, Thursday.

— Peoples Insurance photo

'Oil price hike won't solve all OPEC problems'

PARIS, Mar 19: OPEC has managed to give a boost to oil prices before its regular meeting in Vienna even starts on Tuesday by promising further output cuts but for some experts the oil price is the least of their problems, reports AFP.

The real question is how the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries copes in the longer term as new technology cuts production costs and possible offers alternative energy sources, said Peter Bogin at Cambridge Energy Research Associates (CERA).

"How doe OPEC respond to that .... that is the problem not the oil price," he told the agency.

International Monetary Fund Managing Director Michel Camdessus also warned Thursday that oil producers should not imagine all their problems were solved by the rise in oil prices following promise last week to cut global output by some two million barrels a day from April 1.

My message to oil producers wherever they are is clear, do not delude yourselves. Oil prices will perhaps rise but in real terms, the increase will not be significant, Camdessus said in an interview with Les Echos Newspaper.

It is vital that they do not relax their efforts to diversify and reform their economies, he added.

"The era of the one commodity economy is over" but most oil producers with the exception of the United Arab Emirates do not seem to have realised it yet, Bogin said.

In any case the oil price is cyclical, analysts say so even if prices rise now they will fall again at some points in the future leaving the oil producing economies with the same problems again.

Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer with daily production of eight million barrels per day and proven reserves of 261 billion barrels, relies on oil revenue for 35-40 per cent of gross domestic product and saw its economy contract 10.8 per cent last year as a result of the price fall.

Venezuela which receive two thirds of its annual foreign exchange income from oil is expecting its economy to shrink eight per cent this year unless prices improve.

But most OPEC members take a "short-term view ... just make it through the right sort of thing," launching from crisis to crisis as the price cycle evolves, said Leo Drollas of the Centre for Global Energy Studies in London.

If the new costs manage to push oil prices up to 15-17 dollars a barrel by the end of the year they will be happy, Drollas said they do not have a longer term view.

And while countries such as Venezuela and Iran might manage to successfully diversify their economies Saudi Arabia and Kuwait would have difficulty since they have little else in the way of resources, he said.

"Until the Saudis in particular turn things away from relying so much on oil, the oil price cycle will continue and this is likely to go on for many years yet, Drollas said.

Analysts see oil prices rising to 15-17 dollars a barrel by the end of the year if the latest cut hold and this should be enough to go OPEC budgets back on track, they say.

Prices rose to six month highs on the London market on Thursday as traders took on board the idea that oil producers were serious about taking more oil off the market.

But the root of the current problem is low demand not high supply and at some point if prices firm strongly there will be an increasing temptation to respect the cuts and output could rise again, analysts warned.

Peoples Insurance branch managers' confce held

The annual Branch Manager's Conference of Peoples Insurance Company Limited was held Thursday at a city hotel, says a press release issued in city yesterday.

The conference was presided over by Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company.

Former Chairman Giasuddin Ahmed and Nazmul Ahsan Khaled, Managing Director Syed Zahurul Huq and Executive Director M Mahfuzur Rahman also addressed the conference.

Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, former Chairman, and Golam Faruk Ahmed, Director of the company, were also present.

The conference discussed the business performance of the branches during the year 1998 and also announced the target for 1999.

DCCI training on import, indenting procedures ends

The 5-day training course on "Import and Indenting Procedures", organised by the Human Resources Development Programme (HRDP) of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI) at its Training Centre recently, says a press release.

Topics included in the course were introduction to import trade in Bangladesh, Formalities and Legal Documents for Operating an Import House, Indenting Business in Bangladesh, Market Exploration and Apprising the Principals/Suppliers/Manufacturers for the Imported Products and Indenting, How to Collect Proforma Invoice/Indent and Formalities of Opening the L/C, Marketing in Import Trade, Duties & Taxes for Importable Products in Bangladesh, Functions of C&F Agents, International Tender — Types and Techniques of Handling, Indenting in Private Sector, Negotiation for Commission and Realisation thereof.

In all, 38 participants from different private organisations attended the training course.

Inaugurating the course, DCCI President M H Rahman said the training programme was one of its many other programmes aimed at developing private entrepreneurship in the country.

DCCI Director Khandker A Salam distributed certificates among the participants of the course.

Resource Person of the course and Managing Director of Shadow International Ltd, M Bashir Ullah Bhuiyan, Project Manager of Business Advisory Service (BAS) Project, Md Emdadul Haque, and concerned officials of DCCI were present on the occasion.

Clinton announces new debt-relief drive

WASHINGTON, Mar 19: President Clinton called for debt relief for the heavily-indebted poorest countries (HIPCs) that could result in forgiving an additional $70,000 million in debt, if fully implemented, says a USIS press release issued in city Thursday.

The president's proposal extends the US commitment to providing more relief, more quickly to a broader range of heavily-indebted poorest countries that have strong reform programmes, the White House said on March 16.

Additionally, the White House said that if all HIPC-eligible countries qualify, these proposals would reduce an additional $3,000 million in US bilateral debt more than under the current initiatives, and would leverage nearly $70,000 million in additional debt relief from other creditors.

Clinton called on the international community to pursue a comprehensive approach to debt relief for the heavily-indebted poorest countries — the HIPCs.

Following are the key elements of Clinton's initiative, and the US will work with its colleagues in the G7 to implement these proposals:

— Front loaded relief: Focus on early cash flow relief by the international financial institutions, in conjunction with ongoing forgiveness of cash flows by the Paris Club, to accelerate relief from debt payment burdens without undermining the incentive for sustained economic.

— Deeper debt reduction: Complete forgiveness of bilateral concessional debt up to 90 per cent and in exceptional cases on a broader base of debt.

— Avoid future debt problems: Seek international commitment to provide at least 90 per cent of new aid to HIPC countries on a grant basis.

— Exceptional relief in exceptional cases: Deeper debt reduction in exceptional circumstances to those countries where it can make a real difference.

Innovative approaches: To channel resources from HIPC receiving debt reduction from debt service into education or environmental protection, using innovative financial instruments like debt-for-nature swaps; and take new approaches to promote reconstruction in countries emerging from protracted conflicts;

— New financing : Gold sales by the IMF, additional contributions to the World Bank's HIPC Trust Fund and other creative approaches to help meet the costs of this initiative.

DCCI Director Khandker A Salam addresses the certificate-awarding ceremony of the training course on "Import and Indenting Procedures" held from March 7-11 at DCCI Training Centre. Convenor of DCCI Human Resource Development Standing Committee AFM Obaidur Rahman and concerned officials were present on the occasion.

— DCCI photo

Major Japanese banks to slash investment

TOKYO, Mar 19: Major Japanese companies plan to slash their capital investment by 5.3 per cent in the next fiscal year, marking the third consecutive year of decline, a government-run bank survey showed Friday, reports AP.

Combined capital spending by manufacturing and non-manufacturing companies is projected at 26.23 trillion yen ($224.2 billion) for the new fiscal year beginning April 1, the Japan Development Bank said.

"There are hardly any bright factors in sight, especially in the manufacturing sector," said Masahiko Komori, deputy director of the bank's Economics and Industrial Research Department.

The planned cuts come just as the government has been touting the view that Japan's recession-hit economy may be about to start recovering.

The Economic Planning Agency said in its recent monthly report that the nation's economy was gradually bottoming out, citing some signs of improvement in spending for housing.

On Wednesday, Japan's Parliament enacted a 81.86 trillion yen ($693.7 billion) national budget for fiscal 1999, including 9.43 trillion yen ($80.6 billion) in new public works, to bail the nation's economy out of its worst recession in decades.

Komori said it will be the first time since 1971 that capital spending at major Japanese manufacturers is projected to fall in all 14 industrial categories surveyed. Aggregate spending by the manufacturing companies is expected to fall a substantial 10.1 per cent, he said.

Automakers, which had increased capital investment for four consecutive years through 1998, plan to cut it by 4.2 per cent. Spending by steel makers is projected to fall by 17.8 per cent in the new fiscal year through March 2000.

The findings were made after the Japan Development Bank conducted a survey on Feb 20, covering 2,791 combined capital investment of all industries is predicted to decline 3.5 per cent, the government-financed bank said.

Singapore almost ready for Y2K

SINGAPORE, Mar 19: Singapore banks, power and water supply systems are almost completely prepared to make a smooth transition into the year 2000, officials said Thursday, reports AP.

"Singapore is certainly a strong candidate to be the first to reach 'green' in all the sectors," said Tim Shepheard-Walwyn, chairman of the Global 2000 conference, meeting through Friday to discuss the Asian financial community's readiness for the millennium computer bug.

Global 2000 consists of banks and financial institutions from 53 countries that grade countries on their level of preparedness for the feared Y2K computer glitch.

Representatives of Singapore commercial banks and the Monetary Authority of Singapore, the country's de facto central bank, said their systems are ready for Y2K challenges. The banks are now working on contingency plans.

Singapore's monetary and stock exchanges are almost completely compliant as well, its officials said.

"Overall, we are pretty close to completing our tasks," said Bob Pang of the Singapore International Monetary Exchange. "We expect to finalize our contingency planning by June 1999," he added.

Come Jan. 1, 2000, Singapore also can expect an uninterrupted supply of electricity and water, officials of the Public Utilities Board said.

The small, affluent city-state has to import much of its water from neighboring Malaysia.

But the water works in Johor Bahru, Malaysia that supplies Singapore, "is directly under (Singapore) control," said Jenny Cheong of the Public Utilities Board.

Singapore's computer czar announced on Wednesday that all systems are ready in the cyber-savvy island state of 3.7 million citizens.

"I am pleased to report that Singapore is in full readiness for the year 2000 in all aspects, that is, finance, basic utilities such as water and power, transportation, communications and government systems," National Computer Board chairman David Lim said.

But the rest of Asia is expected to do less well.

Edward Yardeni, chief economist of Deutsche Bank, earlier this year told Vanity Fair magazine, "Asia is toast."

While the report on Singapore readiness for Y2K was made public, journalists were told to leave the conference before Indonesia, Thailand, the Philippines, China and India reported on their preparedness level.

Bank holiday likely around January 1

Another report adds: In order to minimize any disturbances caused by the Year 2000 computer bug, the Monetary Authority of Singapore is considering a long bank holiday around Jan. 1, managing director Koh Yong Guan said Thursday, reports AP.

"We will consider the pros and cons of declaring a bank holiday very carefully," Koh said, adding that a holiday on Dec. 31 is particularly attractive.

The Monetary Authority of Singapore is the country's de facto central bank.

The millennium bug, an offshoot of old programming that doesn't distinguish between the years 1900 and 2000, could cause catastrophic computer shutdowns when the new year begins.

As a precaution, extra bank holidays on Dec. 31 and Jan. 3 and 4 have been suggested.

Closing financial institutions, especially on Dec 31, would give them extra time to complete year-end computer processing and the backing up of systems, Koh said.

Still, he noted, "The extra time would not make any difference at all if we are not Y2K compliant by then."

Singapore's Financial Sector Year 2000 Steering Committee is looking into the holiday proposal.

China to complete tests by May

The People's Bank of China said in a written report Thursday that all the country's financial institutions should complete their internal tests for millennium bug compliance by May, says AP.

"We have made the highest level commitment and focus from both the Chinese government and the financial sector to solve the year 2000 problem," said Chen Jing, head of the Payment and Technology Department in China's de facto central bank. The institution is in charge of coordinating the efforts of China's banks, insurance and postal sectors to be ready for Jan. 1, 2000, when computers must recognize the new century.

The report was released at the Global 2000 conference, of banks and banks and financial institutions from 53 countries that are checking on preparedness for the feared Y2K computer glitch.

Some computers read only the last two numbers of the year, and may not recognize 00 as 2000, but react as if it is 1900. Governments throughout the world are attempting to check computer systems and test them for compliance.

Two Japan securities cos negotiating merger

TOKYO, Mar 19: New Japan Securities Co. and Wako Securities Co. are in the final stage of negotiations for a merger that would catapult the new company into the ranks of Japan's premier securities houses, Japanese media reported Thursday, reports AP.

If the merger is carried out, the resulting entity would have about 9 trillion yen ($ 76 billion) in financial assets, bringing it to the scale of first tier companies like Nomura Securities Co, Daiwa Securities Co and Nikko Securities Co, the Yomiuri newspaper said.

Both companies said in press statements that they are considering a merger, but have not struck a deal.

"As we construct our strategy for the future, (a merger) is one of our options, but at the present moment nothing has been decided," Wako said in its statement.

New Japan, which released a similar statement, had scheduled a news briefing Thursday, but later canceled it.

The brokerages are both affiliated with the Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd, which would increase its investment to own 25 per cent of the new brokerage, the Nihon Keizai financial daily said.

The companies will slash a total of 2,000 jobs to leave a workforce of about 5,000. The firms will withdraw from foreign business and consolidate domestic branches to around 90, from the current 127, the Nihon Keizai said.

New Japan will be the surviving entity from the merger, which was expected to take place in April 2000. The companies have yet to decide on a management lineup and merger ratio, but the latter will be more or less equal, the Yomiuri said.

In reaction the report, the Tokyo Stock Exchange halted trading in shares of the two second tier companies Thursday morning. Trading resumed in the afternoon.

The merged company will focus on retail operations, making a clear distinction from IBJ Securities Co. which emphasizes corporate customers. The two securities companies are likely to come under IBJ's holding company in the future, the paper reported.

Suffering from the sluggish stock market, New Japan Securities has been carrying out cost-cutting measures but posted a pretax loss for the period from October through December, the report said.

Wako Securities, supported by its strong bond raiding business, expects to post a parent pretax profit for the full fiscal year ending March 31.

Weekly Currency Roundup

Local Market

During last week (March 14-18), high demand for US dollar gradually fell from it's zenith and settled in a medium range. Although dollar demand remained unchanged, the range primarily came down a little as the supply situation improved. The scarcity of dollar assuaged due to selling of the greenback by the large nationalised banks. Last week, in the interbank market dollar traded in a range of BDT 48.65 to BDT 48.70.

Trading in the kerb market was insipid and a unit of cash dollar traded between BDT 48.55 and 48.75.

In the money market, the call rate remained in a steady range. Unlike the previous years when spurring up of the call rate to 15 per cent to 20 per cent was an usual phenomenon before the Eid, this year the call rate ranged between 6.5 per cent to 8 per cent. Prudent liquidity management by the government is proving to be quite effective in this aspect.

International Market

In the international markets, dollar dipped against yen as the Nikkei rallied. Japanese investors are repatriating their assets back to Japan prior to their year end on 31st March. The market players ignored Japanese Vice Minister Sakakibara's comment that excessive yen strength is undesirable as yen registered significant gain against dollar. The market also perceived that overseas investors were investing in medium and long-term assets in Japan as the economy seemed to be rebounding from its comatose state. Euro changed downward side against dollar, as it recouped magnificently from its dwindling state. The market reacted positively on resignation of the 20-member EU commission. The pound sterling was bullish as the possibility of a further rate cut seems rather remote in the present scenario.

— StanChart Bank

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 18.3.99

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Esco Virgo	GI	Bang	Rainbow	2/3	21/3
J/2	Vitaliy Kruchina	Rice (P)	Viza	SMSL	22/2	20/3
J/3	Hill Pleanty	Rice(G)	Bank	Ancient	15/2	22/3
J/4	Grigoriy Kovalchuk	Urea	-	USTC	R/A	22/3
J/5	Steafan Gyts	GI	Mum	Cross	1/3	19/3
J/6	Sea Bailo	R.Seed	P Kem	Litmond	4/3	21/3
J/7	Esco Argo	GI	Jaka	Prog	11/3	18/3
J/8	Banglar Urmi	Rice(G)	-	BSC	R/A	18/3
J/9	Sarah-1	Rice(P)/GI	Kara	SMSL	7/3	21/3
J/10	Maria-G	Rice(P)	Viza	AMBL	1/3	22/3
J/11	Sea Coral	Rice(G)	Kand	USTC	17/2	26/2
J/12	Eagle Prosperity	Cont	Sing	RSL	14/3	20/3
J/13	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	11/3	18/3
CCT/1	Abuja	Cont	Col	Baridhi	11/3	19/3
CCT/2	Sin Hai	Cont	Sing	RSL	10/3	18/3
CCT/3	Bunga Mas Lapan	Cont	P.Kel	EOSL	16/3	20/3
RM/14	Sun Ocean	Cement	Indo	USTC	8/3	22/3
RM/15	Albatross-III	Rice(P)	Kand	SMSL	16/2	19/3
CCJ	BUTI	C.Clink	Bank	RML	11/3	26/3
GSJ	Golden D	Wheat(G)	K.Dia	Lams	R/a	20/3
TSP	Good Faith	R. Phos	China	Cosmos	11/3	25/3
RM/3	Younglly	Cement	Pada	Able	7/3	23/3
Rm/4	Pranedya Dwitya	F.Oil	sing	CTPL	16/3	18/3
DD	Banglar Robi	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	20/3
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	IDLE	Para	PSAL	-	-
RM/8	Sea World	Repair	-	CCNL	R/A	-
RM/9	Banglar Gourab	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	22/3
P Jetty	Tug Ocean Silver-8	-	-	ILAPSL	R/A	-
CUFLJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Pada	BSL	15/3	26/3

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Lport call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Bi Ryu Gang	21/3	-	USTC	Cement	-
Osong San	18/3	Indo	SSTL	Cement	-
Darya Ma	18/3	Cal	MSA	Wheat(P)/GI	-
Hafina	18/3	-	MHCSL	Rice(G)	-
Makmur Perkasa	22/3	-	USTC	Cement	-
Meghna (Cont) 2/3	19/3	Sing	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
Ultima (Cont) 11/3	18/3	Col	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Biraj (Cont) 28/2	19/3	Sing	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
QC Teal (Cont) 3/3	18/3	Sing	QCSL	Cont	MGL
State of Gujarat	19/3	-	Oil	GI	-
Acacla (Cont 11/3	19/3	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Peleas-K	20/3	-	USTC	Cement	-
Surabaya Express (48) 11/3	19/3	Bang	MBL	GI (ST. Coil)	-
Mayaram	19/3	-	SSLL	GI	-
Seacross	19/3	Okri	JF	Scraping	-
Makassar Express (Cont) 10/3	29/3	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 14/3	22/3	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Budi Teguh (Cont) 15/3	21/3	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Giorgis	21/3	Vanc	OWSL	Wheat (G)	-
Dragon Brani (Cont) 14/3	22/3	Sing	NOL	Cont	Sing
Kota Naga (Cont) 11/3	21/3	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Sea Falcon	21/3	-	EOSL	Rice	-
Lyong Gun Bong	22/3	-	Psal	Cement	-
Eka Lestari	22/3	-	Psal	C.Clinker	-
Sea Amelita	22/3	-	Porg	GI	-
Ingenutty (Cont) 17/1	23/3	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya 15/3	24/3	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Dragon Kalimantan (Cont)	15/3	Sing	NOL	Cont	Sing
Bharatendu (48) 14/3	26/3	-	SSLL	GI (ST. Coil)	-
Banga Birol (Cont) 15/3	27/3	Sing	BD Ship	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Sotiec Excel	18/3	Sing	ECSL	-	-
Koo Yong	19/3	Sing	ECSL	HSD	-
Stavanger Pride	18/3	Sing	ECSL	HSD	-
Hektor	15/3	Thai	MBL	Ammonia	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (25/10)

Vessels at outer anchorage:

Ready on:

Sea Coral	Rice(G)	Kand	USTC	17/2
Conny	CDSO	R Union	Seacome	19/2
Xing Ye	Rice (G)	Hald	MHCSL	20/2
Chettined Tradition	Wheat (G)	P Side	LSC	18/2
Pacific Carrer	Wheat(G)	Suez	ANCL	21/1
You Yue	Rice (G)	Kand	USTC	28/2
Grazia	CDSO	Darb	TSL	28/2
United	Wheat (G)	Darb	ANCL	3/3
AA Venture	Rice(P)	Kara	CLA	11/3
Nand Rati	Wheat (P)	Sing	AASS	10/3
Ocean Reyna	GI	Yang	Everett	12/3
Triumph Hong Kong (48)	GI	Sing	RML	14/3
Eagle Prosperity (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RML	14/3
Topaz	Wheat(G)	K Dia	Lams	R/A (14/3)
Sibrisk	Cement	Pada	PSAL	15/3
Shun An	GI	Sing	RML	15/3
Bunga Mas Lapan (Cont)	Cont	P Kel	EOSL	15/3
Bunga Mas Lima (Cont)	Cont	P Kel	EOSL	15/3
Orion Glory	GI	Kaus	Prog	16/3
Banglar Kakoli	GI	Male	BSC	16/3
bunga Mas Enam	Cont	P.Kel	EOSL	17/3
Buxamoon	Cont	Sing	QCSL	17/3
Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	18/3
Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	BSC	18/3
Banglar Shobha	Wheat(G)	-	LAMS	R/A (9/3)
Ervilia	Hsd	Sing	ECSL	16/3
Viva treasure	Cement	Pada	USTC	14/3
Ma Cho	Urea	Sing	Rainbow	5/3

Vessels not ready:

Kim Dong	Rice(P)	Para	MSL	24/1
Dewan-1	Rice(P)	Kara	RML	17/3
haci Restt Kalkavan	Cement	Sing	PSAL	17/3
Sun Shin	-	-	-	R/A(18/3)

Vessels awaiting instruction:

Karya Sentosa	Rice(G)	-	USTC	R/A (18/9)
Ritz	Rice(P)	Kaki	Cross	R/A (24/9)
Delta Star	-	-	RSA	R/A (7/7)
Palau Mawar	-	Bang	-	8/1
Al Salamas	GL(Repair)	-	ASLL	R/A (28/11)
Banglar Maya	GI	-	BSC	R/A(16/3)
Merak-S	-	-	USTC	R/A (23/2)
Banglar Asha	-	-	BSC	R/A (7/3)
Banglar Shourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A (9/3)
Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC	R/A (10/3)
Seagul Fortune	-	-	-	R/A(17/3)
Tur As Enterprise	-	Mong	Frank	31/1
Barge: Wombat/Le Macareux/PDC-1Ham-914/ F-22 A/CDveloping road			Karna	R/A (30/10)

Vessels not entering

Taraman Bibi	Cement	Pada	USTC	17/2
Sandy Bay	Wheat(G)	Texas	Lams	14/3
Apanemo	Scraping	Sing	OTL	15/3
Jollity	Ballast	Mong	-	12/2
Gumbet	Scraping	Inch	OTBL	22/2

The above were the Thursday's (18.03.99) shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by **HRC Group**, Dhaka.