

Microsoft antitrust case now in US Supreme Court

Jackson bypasses federal appellate court

WASHINGTON, June 21: The judge who ordered Microsoft Corp broken up delayed implementing business restrictions against the computer software-maker and sent the landmark antitrust case directly to the Supreme Court, where the nine justices are just days from finishing their current term, reports AP.

With his action, US District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson bypassed the federal appellate court where Microsoft wants the case to be considered first. The US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia circuit favoured the company in a past, related case.

Immediate Supreme Court consideration was in the "general public importance in the administration of justice," Jackson wrote in his widely-expected order Tuesday.

But in a surprise twist, the judge delayed implementing various conduct restrictions he imposed in a June 7 decision that also ordered Microsoft to be split into two companies. While Jackson at that time had stayed the actual breakup until

all appeals were exhausted, the business restraints he ordered would have gone into effect Sept. 5.

Both Microsoft and the Justice Department applauded Jackson's action, albeit for opposite reasons.

Microsoft spokesman Mark Murray said: "We're obviously very pleased that the District Court rejected the government's arguments and stayed the entire judgment."

It was uncertain just how quickly the case could be resolved. The Supreme Court is in the last two weeks of its 1999-2000 term, and it can either accept the case or send it to the appellate court for review.

Unless the high court justices expedite their handling of the case — an action government lawyers may seek — Microsoft will have until Aug. 14 to file an appeal of Jackson's ruling.

That appeal would ask the justices to send the case back down to the appeals court. The government then would have 30 days to respond and explain why the case should be decided

directly by the nation's highest court.

Jackson ruled on April 3 that Microsoft engaged in anti-competitive conduct in violation of federal antitrust laws, and, as a remedy, he ordered the company's breakup and a number of business restrictions.

Among those restrictions, Jackson ordered Microsoft to divulge to outside developers technical information about the way Microsoft operating systems interact with its software. Those developers would be able to pick apart the computer code without cost to improve their understanding of it and make their own products.

Microsoft also would not longer control what icons are on the Windows operating screen when a user buys a computer. This means that consumers buying a computer from a distributor such as Dell or Gateway would see a desktop that looked nothing like the Windows desktop they're accustomed to.

The Justice Department and 19 states that successfully sued

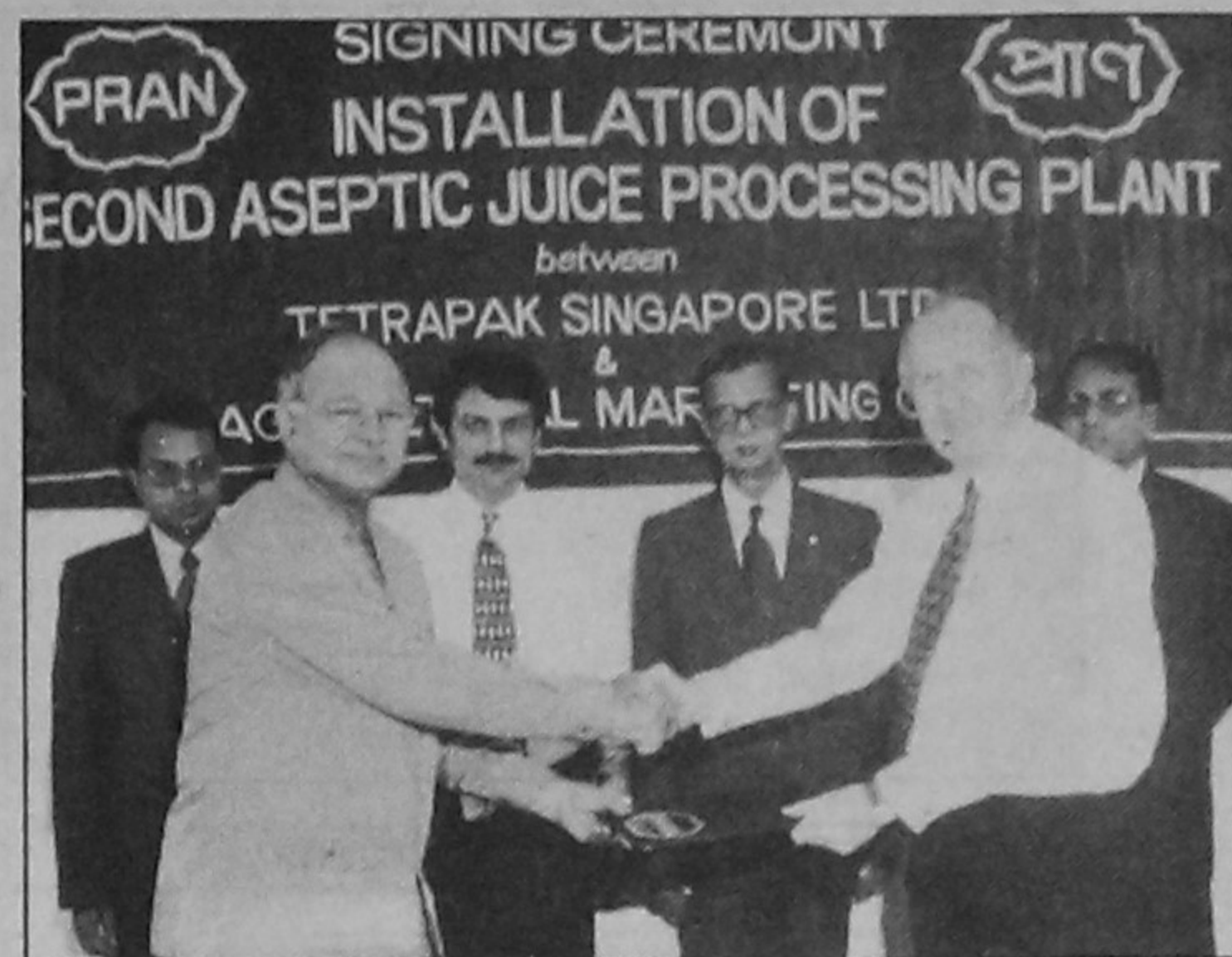
Microsoft had urged Jackson to skip the appellate court and turn the case over to the Supreme Court because of the high-profile nature of the case and the crucial role technology plays in the new American economy.

But Microsoft, one of the nation's most successful companies whose Windows software operates more than 90 per cent of the world's personal computers, pushed to have the case heard in the appeals court.

The appellate court on Monday said it would step aside and suspend any action on the case in the event Jackson chose to send the matter to the Supreme Court under a rarely used fast-track process.

Although conduct restrictions no longer loom in the company's immediate future, Microsoft said it still would prefer that the case go through the regular appellate process.

One antitrust expert said Jackson's decision to stay the restrictions on Microsoft's conduct may have increased the chance of the Supreme Court taking the case.



(From left) Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), Chief Executive of AMCL-PRAN, and Christer Ronnegard, Managing Director of Tetrapak Singapore Ltd, (in 2nd row) ED-PRAN Elias Ahmed Mridha, GM of Tetrapak Singapore Ltd, Shahid Hossain, Chairman of AMCL-PRAN Lt Col Mahtab Uddin Ahmed (Retd) and (D) Gias Uddin Ahmed are seen at the signing ceremony of an agreement on installation of the local company's second aseptic juice processing plant.

— PRAN photo

India offers insurance cover for poor

NEW DELHI, June 21: India's cabinet approved yesterday a group insurance scheme for people living below the poverty line. Information Technology Minister Pramod Mahajan

said, reports AFP.

Mahajan told reporters the premium would be 200 rupees (4.54 dollars) a year under the scheme. Policy-holders would have to pay 100 rupees while the federal government would pay the balance.

PRAN sign deal with Tetrapak to set up second aseptic juice line

PRAN-Agricultural Marketing Co Ltd has signed an agreement with Tetrapak Singapore Ltd for setting up the 2nd Aseptic Juice Processing Line at their existing factory at Ghoshal, says a press release.

Maj Gen Amjad Khan Chowdhury (Retd), Chief Executive of AMCL-PRAN and Christer Ronnegard, Managing Director of Tetrapak Singapore Ltd, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective companies. Top functionaries of AMCL-PRAN were present on the occasion.

The first-ever aseptic juice processing plant in Bangladesh was installed by AMCL-PRAN in 1997.

The 2nd plant will double the existing production capacity of fruit juices in aseptic pack. This will help fulfill the increasing demand for PRAN fruit juices in the local and international markets, it said.

India is still home to more than a quarter of the world's poor, with more than 300 million people, or 34 per cent of the population, living below the national poverty line.

Only five per cent of India's nearly one billion people have life insurance and a 200-million strong middle class offers huge opportunities for investors in the sector.

Mahajan said the burden on policy-holders could be reduced further if state governments also agreed to contribute to the new scheme targeted at the poor.

We would like to appeal to the state government to contribute the maximum possible so as to reduce the premium burden," Mahajan said.

Under the scheme, 20,000 rupees will be paid to beneficiaries in the event of natural death of policy-holders.

The scheme will cover people in the 18-60 years age band and only apply to groups of a minimum of 25 people.



Microcel launched its Human Resource Software at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday. Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed was present at the launching ceremony as chief guest.

— Star photo

BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিফটনে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Bangladesh Insulator & Sanitaryware Factory Limited, Bux Nagar, Mirpur, Dhaka invites sealed tender in two envelope system for supply of "06 Pcs of High Performance Synchronous Belts & 600 Meter of High Pressure Hose Pipe" against tender No. 191 on "C&F (C) Dhaka" basis under any suitable source of financing. Detailed tender documents obtainable from (i) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad, Chittagong & (iii) BISF at Tk. 25.00. Tender will be received up to 11-00 AM on 17-07-2000 at BCIC Head Office & BISF and opened immediately thereafter. No tender documents will be sold on the date of opening of tender.

BCIC- 501-14/6/2000
DFP-15507-18/6 G-1207

Notice of Tender Military Engineer Services

Applications are invited by AHQ, QMG's Br, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt for issue of tender documents for the following works.

- Construction of 3x8 Mrd OR's Qtr (4th floor over 3rd floor) over existing Mrd OR's Qtr (Bldg No. 28, 29 & 30) including internal/external services and furniture for Sta HQ at Senapalli Area, Dhaka Cantonment.
 - Construction of 3x8 Mrd OR's Qtr (4th floor over 3rd floor) over existing Mrd OR's Qtr (Bldg No. 22, 23, & 24) including internal/external services and furniture for Sta HQ at Senapalli Area, Dhaka Cantonment.
 - Construction of 3x8 Mrd OR's Qtr (4th floor over 3rd floor) over existing Mrd OR's Qtr (Bldg No. 31, 32, & 33) including internal/external services and furniture for Sta HQ at Senapalli Area, Dhaka Cantonment.
 - Construction of 3x8 Mrd OR's Qtr (4th floor over 3rd floor) over existing Mrd OR's Qtr (Bldg No. 37, 38 & 39) including internal/external services and furniture for Sta HQ at Senapalli Area, Dhaka Cantonment.
2. Eligible contractors may apply for tender documents as per MES regulations. Interested MES enlisted 'B', 'C', & 'D' class contractors may apply quoting their class, index numbers. Contractors must have VAT registration. VAT and other taxes are payable as per rules. Applications should be submitted to this Directorate within 05 days from the date of publication of the advertisement mentioning name of works at the top of the envelope.
3. Authority reserves full power to accept/cancel any/all applications without assigning any reason.

ISPR/Misc/2000/528
DFP-15479-18/6
G-1205 Lt Col
For DW & CE (Army)
Dhaka Cantonment

Notice of Tender Military Engineer Services

- Applications are invited by AHQ, QMG's Br, DW & CE (Army), Dhaka Cantt for issue of tender documents for the following works.
- Construction of 2x10 Mrd OR's Quarter (5 storey with 5 storied foundation) including internal/external services for Sta HQ at Rajendrapur Cantonment (Group-1).
- Eligible contractors may apply for tender documents as per MES Regulations. Interested MES enlisted 'A', 'B' & 'C' class contractors may apply quoting their class, index numbers. Contractors must have VAT registration. VAT and other taxes are payable as per rules. Applications should be submitted to this Directorate within 05 days from the date of publication of the advertisement — mentioning name of works at the top of the envelope.
- Authority reserves full power to accept/cancel any/all applications without assigning any reason.

ISPR/Misc/2000/531
DFP-15477-18/6
G-1206 Lt Col
For DW & CE (Army)
Dhaka Cantonment

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

পানির অপচয় রোধে কাজ শেষে কলের মূখ বন্ধ করুন

Tenders are invited from Dhaka WASA enlisted 1st, 2nd & 3rd class ABC licence holder mechanical & electrical contractors for installation of 11/415 KV sub-station at Nitaiganj Water Pump Station. Estimated cost of the work is Tk 2,49,086/-. Tenders will be received up to 12:00 Noon of 10-7-2000 & opened on the same day at 2:00 PM in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives.

Schedule of tender will be available at the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka & All MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other detailed information will be available at the office of the undersigned.

Address: Hatkhola Road, Dhaka
WASA PI-210/2000
DFP-15333-14/6
G-1203
Ajit Kumar Ray
Executive Engineer
FM Division
Dhaka WASA

Bangladesh Power Development Board Tender Notice

সময়মতো সঠিক বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন
সরকারকে ফাঁকি দেয়ার প্রবণতা রোধ করুন

Tender Notice

- Name of work: Tenders in sealed cover are invited for supply of spare parts for satellite cable channel of Officers' Club & VIP Rest House under Deputy Manager (Power) under Ashuganj Power Station Maintenance Circle.
- Eligibility of contractor: PDB's 1999-2000 enlisted all class contractors & bonafide supplier firms having import licence for goods & trade licence for supply of such goods can purchase the tender.
- Price of tender document: Tk 200/- (two hundred) only, non-refundable.
- Place & last date of obtaining tender: Can be purchased from the office of the Chief Engineer (Generation), PDB, WAPDA Building, PDB, Dhaka, Chief Engineer (PSC) Biddut Bhaban, 1 A Gani Road, Dhaka on permission of the officer concerned subject to payment of the price of tender document through Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Deputy Director (Accounts), ZAO, Ashuganj. Tender can be purchased on cash payment from Janata Bank, Ashuganj Bazar Branch, Ashuganj, Bhaban on permission of Add. Chief Engineer (O&M), APSC, Manager (Maintenance), APSC & the undersigned, up to 5-7-2000/21-3-1407 BS.
- Place, date & time of submitting tender: Tenders will be received under sealed cover at the office of the Chief Engineer (Generation), PDB, WAPDA Building, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka, Chief Engineer (PSC), PDB, Biddut Bhaban, 1 A Gani Road, Dhaka & the undersigned up to 12:00 Noon of 6-7-2000/22-3-1407 BS.
- Date & time of opening tender: Tender box will be opened on 6-7-2000/22-3-1407 BS at 12:15 PM in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers.

Biddut/Jana 2321(4) 99-2000
DFP-15034-13/6
G-1201
Deputy Manager (Power)
Ashuganj Power Station Complex
PDB, Ashuganj, Bhaban.

Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against Taka to clients.					
Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	51.2500	51.2800	50.8500	50.8870	50.8250
Pound Stg	77.8693	77.9148	76.7021	76.4714	76.3628
Deuts mark	25.3259	25.3407	24.3352	24.2620	24.2276
Swiss Franc	31.5910	31.6094	30.9438	30.8507	30.8069
Japanese Yen	0.4887	0.4890	0.4803	0.4789	0.4782
Dutch Guilder	22.4772	22.4903	21.5979	21.5330	21.5024
Danish Krona	6.5809	6.5847	6.4432	6.4238	6.4146
Australian \$	31.2369	31.2552	29.9507	29.9605	29.8191
Belgian franc	1.2279	1.2296	1.1799	1.1763	1.1746
Canadian \$	35.1992	35.2198	34.1964	34.0935	34.0451
French Franc	7.5513	7.5557	7.2559	7.2341	7.2238
Hong Kong \$	6.5887	6.5925	6.5117	6.4921	6.4829
Italian Lira	0.0256	0.0256	0.0246	0.0245	0.0245
Singapore \$	29.9357	29.9533	29.0074	28.9201	28.8791
Euro	49.5331	49.5621	47.5566	47.4524	47.3850

Bill buying rates					
TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
50.7512	50.4263	50.0025	49.5788	49.1550	48.3075
US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)					
Buying (\$)	Selling (\$)	Curren cy	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
50.8250	51.2500	USD	6.65000	6.92000	7.07500
76.3628	77.8693	GBP	6.06888	6.19031	6.31500
Cash/ T.C.	Cash/ T.C.	EURO	4.48255	4.52250	4.68288
					4.84700
					4.98000

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars				
Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Korean Won
4.60/44.73	51.75/52.25	39.12/39.15	3.7995/3.8005	8650/8670
				1119.2/1119.3

Amex notes Wednesday's market

The USD/BDT trading was moderately active on Wednesday. Demand for US dollar remained steady with stable supply. Average USD/BDT rate ranged between 51.1875 and 51.1950. The call money market was active and the average call rates ranged between 7.75 and 8.25 per cent.

Yen was well-supported in the late morning trading on Wednesday as the market's upbeat view on Japan's recovery prospects weathered some soft economic indicators. But its progress against the dollar was hampered, with fears of possible intervention by the Bank of Japan (BOJ). The dollar was quoted at 105.54/64 yen, having slipped as low as 105.21 yen overnight. It ended at 105.53 yen in US trading on Tuesday. The euro maintained a softer tone against the yen and the dollar, unable to extend gains on a solid German Ifo survey overnight. The euro was weighed down when European Central Bank President Wim Duisenberg indicated interest rates would be steady for some months to come although inflationary risks still linger. The euro flourished at \$0.9512, compared with \$0.9543 in late US trading. At around 1155 GMT, the exchange rates of major currencies against USD were GBP/USD 1.5028/1.5036, USD/CHF 1.6386/1.6394, USD/JPY 105.29/105.39, EUR/USD 0.9464/0.9467.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port					
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 21.6.2000					
Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
J/1	Banglar Doot	Rect(P)	Kara	DSC	25/6
J/2	Apex	Wheat(P)	Saig	Cindy	10/6
J/3	Altair-SS	Sugar(G)	Kolait/Ltmond	10/6	28/6
J/4	Top glory	Wheat(P)	SingRainbow	30/5	23/6
J/5	Egasso FortuneGI (S. Asli C. Soda)	Cont	DSL	14/6	25/6
J/6	Areopolis	C.Clink	Tuba	MBL	8/6
J/8	Jin Hong Hai	Wheat(P)	P.Said	OWSL	7/5
J/9	Bay Fortune	GI(BIT)	B.Adb	SMSL	5/6
J/10	Sulu Warrior	GI(Ype)	VancRainbow	2/6	23/6
J/11	Banga Birol (flag)	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	14/6
J/12	Nordulk Oak	C.Clink	Pada	NWSL	8/6
J/13	Jutha Parichart	Cont	Sing	RSL	10/6
CCT/1	Orient Independence	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	10/6
CCT/2	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (Bd)	9/6
CCT/3	Boxer Capt Cook	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	13/6
RM/14	Undok-1	Cement	Sing	SBS	22/5
CCJ	Ban Ann	C.Clink	Lang	RML	15/6
RM/3	Bukom	Cpo	IndSirainbow	15/6	23/6
RM/6	Poti	Lisd/JP-1	BailaAtlantic	12/6	28/6
DDJ	Al Sabiyah	HSD	KuwaAtlantic	9/6	24/6
DD	Ocean-1	Repair	Yang	SMSL	13/5
DDJ/1	Banglar MonilCont	6 Repari	Sing	BSC	17/4
DDJ/2	Developing Road	Pmat	Silek	Karna	15/6
	Dea Conqueror		-	Arafen	R/A
RM/9	Banglar JoytilCont	6/6Reapari	-	BSC	R/A
Kalco (U)	Matilde Oldendroff	Urea	Pena	Oil	18/5

Vessels due at outer anchorage					
Name of vessels	Date of arrival	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port	
Bay Pride	21/6	Yang	SMSL	GI(Log)	-
Rimbun	21/6	Sing	PSALC	Clink (Diamond)	-
Colover Trust	21/6	Pada	MBLC	Clink(Conefid)	-
Lestari Utama	21/6	-	ANCL	Cement	-
Banglar Shikha (Cont)	18/6	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve (Cont)	11/6	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Mary Nour	22/6	Lank	BSLCement	(Scan)	-
Morning Rise (oro/24)	11/6	22/6	-	Everett	-
Gold Indus4811/6	22/6	-	Everett	GIst coll	-
Banga Biraj(cont)	11/06	22/6	-	Bdship	Cont
Gant Star	23/6	-	H&H	GI	-
Jaya Mar(Cont)	11/6	23/6	-	Everseset	Cont
Al Baurag	23/6	-	Seacom	Cement	Cig
Dragon Kalimantan (Cont)	19/624/6	Sing	NOL	Cont	Sing
Kapitan Petko Volvoda (4831)	524/6	COL	BBAGISt(Coll)	-	-
Chong Gen	24/6	Vlet	SBS	Rice(P)	-
Kedah (Cont)	14/6	24/6	Sing	RSL	Cont
Jin Cheng	25/6	Shang	Bdship	GI	-
Banglar Maya	25/6	Jedda	BSC	GI	-
QC Pintall(Cont)	14/6	25/6	-	QCSL	Cont
Kota Naga(Cont)	14/6	25/6	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont
Bharatnagar (E/L)	17/6	26/6	-	SSLL	E/L Antidundi
An Da	26/6	-	Lutful	St.Rails	-
OSG Alpha (Cont)	20/6	26/6	Sing	RSL	Cont
Chu Hong	27/6	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Robi	27/6	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Hilda	28/6	-	Prog	Q	-

Vessels at outer anchorage: Ready on

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaya	-	-	BBBAL	17/8
Barge: Csk-6	-	-	BBAL	R/A(28/11)
Tug Magrita	-	-	BBAL	R/A(28/11)
Dea Champion	-	Baha	Arafen	R/A(10/6)
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A(29/4)

Vessels not ready					
Clitter Sterling	Wheat(T)	Pland	Seachory		15/6
Rangtane	GI(Copra)	Sing	Aeka		19/6
Chittinaid Glory	GI(Copra)	Sing			15/6
Eco Charger	GI (Maizee)	Sing	Rainbow		20/6
Vessels awaiting instruction					
Xing Ye	Rice(G)	-	MHCSL	R/A (20/6)	
Professor Pa Vlenko	-	-	MSML	R/A (10/5)	
Banglar Gourab	-	-	BSC	R/A (12/5)	
BanglarShourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A (17/6)	
	Ballast	V. Pol	HSC		18/6