

# State attorney gen to stay firm in bid to split Microsoft

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: No matter what happens to the Microsoft antitrust case in a future presidential administration, the state attorney general says they will stand firm in their attempt to break Microsoft in two, reports AP.

Reacting to Microsoft's filing this week contesting much of the breakup order, the state law enforcement officials say they are as determined as at the start of their two-year effort to end what they call a monopoly by the world's largest software maker.

"The states are committed to litigate this to conclusion," Connecticut Attorney General Richard Blumenthal said Tuesday. "We're in for the long haul."

Microsoft's filing Monday asked the US Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia for a very long schedule and called into question 19 separate facets of the US District Court's June decision to break up the company.

On Tuesday, the Justice Department threw down the gauntlet and took the rare step of filing its proposed schedule two days before it was due. That proposal recommends a much faster schedule and shorter court briefs than Microsoft wants. The government said the company should be able to reply to its proposal before its Oct. 10 deadline too.

There has been some speculation by government officials and analysts that Microsoft is trying to delay the breakup until the fast-paced computer market changes in their favour or a Republican administration takes over. The Republican nominee, Texas Gov George W Bush, has been supportive of Microsoft in the past.

The government's schedule would set oral arguments for January, when a new administration takes over. Microsoft's proposal would extend the filing of court papers at least into March.

Antitrust expert William E

Kovacic of George Washington University said his research has found no instance in which an incoming administration has abandoned a case as large as the Microsoft suit, although he said Bush probably would be willing to settle on terms more favorable to Microsoft.

Kovacic also criticised Microsoft's tactics. He said the company is "overreaching" and is liable to wear thin any leeway it might have with the appeals court.

A spokesman for Iowa Attorney General Thomas Miller agreed with the Connecticut attorney general that the states will not back down.

"The states will pursue it," Miller's spokesman Bob Bramer said. "We are full partners and have full status as plaintiffs in the case, and we will continue the case."

In its proposal Tuesday, the Justice Department noted that US District Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson has stayed not only his breakup order but also,

at the company's request, his restrictions on company conduct before the breakup is complete. Given the stay, "it is essential for effective antitrust law enforcement in a critical sector of the nation's economy that the appeal be concluded expeditiously," the antitrust division told the appeals court.

Of the company's request for vastly expanded page limits, the department said, "There is no justification for this extraordinary request. This is an appeal, not a retrial. ... (The) legal issues do not differ significantly in complexity or scope from those presented in any civil antitrust case."

The company had argued that extended time and extra pages were needed because of the complexity of the case. In a statement responding to the Justice Department filing, Microsoft said Tuesday the company has "suggested a schedule and briefing length that will allow for a prompt and efficient process to consider the appeal."



This file picture taken December 20, 1999 of the French stock exchange authority COB (Commission des Opérations de Bourse) building in Paris. Two former COB employees were in police custody Tuesday in connection with an investigation into insider trading by staff at the market watchdog, said a source close to the case. - AFP photo

## Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rates of major currencies against taka:

**Central bank buying and selling rate of USD: BDT 53.85/BDT 54.15.**

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buying		
			TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
54.2500	54.2800	USD	53.8150	53.6464	53.5779
48.1159	48.2028	EUR	46.3425	46.1592	46.0826
79.7652	79.8072	GBP	77.9589	77.6924	77.6378
30.2594	30.2839	AUD	27.2597	27.1672	27.0871
0.5659	0.5660	JPY	0.4880	0.4878	0.4868
31.5697	31.5942	CHF	30.8630	30.7584	30.6639
5.5683	5.5734	SEK	5.4728	5.4551	5.4392
36.3484	36.3730	CAD	35.4849	35.3913	35.3081
6.9954	6.9967	HKD	6.8714	6.8537	6.8363
31.350	31.5509	SGD	30.3860	30.3422	30.2275
14.8919	14.9095	AED	14.5023	14.5242	14.4838
14.5799	14.5983	SAR	14.2402	14.2035	14.1853

  

Usance export bills					
TT/OD	30 Days	60Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7041	53.3727	52.9304	52.4217	51.8698	50.6303

  

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar						
Indian Rupee	Pak	Thai	Mal	Indo	NZ	
45.98	59.00	42.52	3.7995	8760	0.4002	
46.08	59.20	42.56	3.8005	8790	0.4012	

  

US Dollar		LIBOR					
Buying	Selling	Months	1	2	6	12	
Cash note	53.6150	USD	6.62	6.8025	6.75	6.7763	
TC	53.5650	GBP	6.07906	6.17594	6.26875	6.37	

## ROK banks still hold huge bad loans Reforms lag far behind

SEOUL, Oct 4: South Korean financial institutions remain heavily burdened with huge bad loans, despite some improvement between March and June this year, government data showed today, says AFP.

At the end of June, the country's 1,653 financial institutions had 82.5 trillion won (74 billion dollars) in bad loans, down 8.7 per cent from a quarter earlier, the Financial Supervisory Commission (FSC) said.

As a result their average bad loan ratio fell 1.7 percentage points to 13.6 per cent, it said.

The bad loan data followed an FSC report that most major banks were far behind schedule in carrying out reform measures they have pledged in return for billions of dollars of public funds.

South Korea has already spent 109.6 trillion won of public funds to prop up the financial system since 1997.

But the government was

forced to inject another 50 trillion won into the restructuring of ailing banks. An evaluation of the banks' books will be completed by the end of October.

At the end of June, 17 commercial banks posted 43.31 trillion won in bad loans, down 8.6 per cent from the end of March, with their average bad loan ratio down 1.6 percentage points to 12.4 per cent.

Their net bad loans not covered by provisions totaled 31.4 trillion won during the same period, down 12.3 per cent from end March.

The fall in bad loans reflects the sale of bad assets through asset-backed securities, write-offs and the collection of some of the problem loans, the FSC said.

Korea First Bank's bad loans stood at 3.74 trillion won, Housing and Commercial Bank at 3.08 trillion won, and Seoul-bank at 2.84 trillion won.

**Bangladesh Power Development Board**  
দেশপ্রেমে উত্কৃষ্ট হউন  
বিদ্যুতের অবৈধ সংযোগ বন্ধ করুন

### Tender Notice

Name of work: 1) Supply of office furniture for Mohalchhari Electric Supply 2) Supply of office furniture for Dighinala Electric Supply under the office of Khagrachhari Distribution Division. Eligibility of contractors: Enlisted bonafide supplier establishment of Power Development Board. Estimated expenditure: 1) 38,300/- 2) 38,300/- taka only. Cost of tender: Each set 1) Taka 35/- 2) Taka 35/- (non-refundable). Place of availability of tender and date: Office of the Chief Engineer, Distribution, Southern Zone, PDB, Agrabad, Chittagong/office of the Superintending Engineer, Operation and Maintenance Circle, PDB, Rangamati/Manager, Sonali Bank, Khagrachhari, Hill district. Tenders can be purchased till 10.10.2000. Date of receiving and opening tender: In the above-mentioned offices (except bank), the office of the undersigned on 11.10.2000 at 12:00 noon and tenders will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM before the tenderers present (if any one remains present). Other terms and conditions and all rules and regulations as mentioned in the schedule will have to be followed properly.

**Executive Engineer**  
Distribution Division-  
Khagrachhari  
PDB, Khagrachhari,  
Hill District.  
Biddiut/Jano-588(3)/2000-2001  
DFP-23564-28/9 G-1742



Japan's electronics giant Matsushita Electric employee Yukiko Abe yesterday displays the company's latest mobile phone with the Bluetooth attachment on its bottom (R) and the Bluetooth PCMCIA card which enables wireless communication between the PC and mobile phone within 100 meters during the CEATEC, Japan's largest electronics and communication trade show at Makuhari, suburban Tokyo. - AFP photo

## BCIC Tender Notice

Managing Director, Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd, Ghorasal, Narsingdi invites two envelope system sealed quotations from the bonafide manufacturers/suppliers/stockists/trading firms for supply of 6,250 kg 10/3 ply Tine against local Tender Enquiry No ESAKA/KROY-1.002/2000-2001/124 dated 23.9.2000. The tender shall be opened on 16.10.2000 at 11:00 AM at Urea Fertilizer Factory Ltd., Ghorasal and BCIC Purchase Division, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka simultaneously. Tender documents shall be available on payment of Tk 100.00 (Taka one hundred) only (non-refundable) per set from the (i) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka, (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Ctg and (iii) General Manager (A&F), UFFL, Ghorasal, Narsingdi. No tender documents shall be sold on the date of opening.

Soaring crude oil costs have had only a "limited effect" on underlying price pressures so far, the Fed said. But it warned that higher energy costs pose the risk of "raising inflation expectations" in coming months.

BCIC-867-27/9/2000  
DFP-23693-01/10 G-1736

## Fed leaves rates unchanged amid worry over energy

WASHINGTON, Oct 4: For the first time this year, the Federal Reserve's top policy-making group is raising concerns that higher energy prices could spark inflation dangers down the road, reports AP.

The Federal Open Market Committee, composed of Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan and his colleagues, did not act on that fear Tuesday in opting to leave interest rates unchanged for the third meeting in a row.

But worries about the possible effect of rising energy costs on the nation's economy were mentioned by the Fed as it left the door open to further rate increases in the future.

Soaring crude oil costs have had only a "limited effect" on underlying price pressures so far, the Fed said. But it warned that higher energy costs pose the risk of "raising inflation

expectations" in coming months.

The Fed, according to David Orr, chief economist for First Union, is worried that the rise in energy prices "has continued for so long and climbed to such high levels that both workers and companies will stop viewing it as temporary."

Orr said the Fed is concerned that fears of rising inflation would lead workers to demand higher wages and companies would boost prices to protect profit margins, and both could worsen inflation.

The fact that the Fed raised concerns about higher energy prices and didn't sound a definite all-clear in terms of future rate increases disappointed Wall Street investors. But economists through it made sense.

"The end game on oil and

inflation and its impact on the US economy will not be over until we get through the winter," said Allen Sinai, chief global economist at Primm Decision Economics in New York. "There are too many wild cards on the energy side."

Still, many analysts continue to believe that the Fed will stay on the sidelines for the rest of the year, provided energy costs don't spiral out of control.

Crude oil for November delivery is now hovering at the 32-a-barrel mark, but reached a 10-year high last month when it climbed above \$37 a barrel.

But the Fed repeated its observation that labour markets remained exceptionally tight, something that also poses an inflation risk along with rising energy costs.

## Shipping Intelligence

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 4.10.2000

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of Leaving arrival
J/1	Shun Cheng	GI (S. Ash)	Lian	Concord	22/9 7/10
J/2	Anje Jiang	GI	Hinch	BDSHIP	23/9 7/10
J/3	Topaz	GI	Sing	Prog	23/9 6/10
J/4	Bay Pride	Rice(P)/GI	Yang	SMSL	16/09 6/10
J/5	Bao Yun Shan (48)	GI(STC)	Yang	RML	26/09 4/10
J/6	Argus	R Seed	Sing	Royal	11/9 7/10
J/7	World Amber	Wheat(P)	Sing	ELIC	24/8 15/10
J/8	Eradios	Sugar(G)	Sant	Fortune	16/9 7/10
J/9	Al Bauraq	Gypsum	Peng	Seacom	4/9 7/10
J/10	Aptmariner	GI(Matze)	Dall	Seagroy	8/9 4/10
J/11	OSG Alpha	Cont	Sing	RSL	24/9 4/10
J/12	Jaami	Cont	Sing	Cross	27/9 4/10
J/13	Pavonis	GI(STC)	Pipa	SMSL	13/9 4/10
CCT/1	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Sing	RSL	03/10 6/10
CCT/2	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	29/9 5/10
RM/15	North Star-Ji	Cement	D Abb	SBS	R/A 7/10
TSP	Natcha Naree	R Sulp	Bah	Seacom	1/10 10/10
RM/4	Clipper Venture	CDSO	Bah	TSA	28/9 10/10
DD	Banglar Shikha	Repair	Sing	Bsc	20/9 10/10
DD/1	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	Bsc	R/A 6/10
RM/9	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	-	Bsc	R/A 6/10
CUFLJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Lank	BSC	27/9 10/10

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Boxer Capt Cook (Cont)	5/10	P Kel	BDSHIP	Cont
Min Jiang	4/10	S Hai	BDSHIP	GI (ST Cargo)
Banding Ace (7233/10)	9/10	Sing	Everett	Steel+GI
Lucky Emblem(7217/9)	5/10	Ynaq	Everett	GI(ST Cargo)
Banga Bura (Cont) 21/9	5/10	P Kel	BDSHIP	Cont
Banglar Robi (Cont) 24/9	5/10	Sing	BSC	Sing
Asian Saffron	6/10	Yang	Everett	GI(ST Coal)
Ganda Satria	7/10	Indo	Delmurt	-
Joy Miracle (7217/9)	9/10	Jaka	SSL	GI(ST Prod)
Arabella (Cont) 28/9	9/10	Sing	QCSL	Cont
Kota Cahaya (Cont) 26/9	7/10	Sing	PI (BD)	Cont
Jurong Balsam (Cont) 1/10/7/10	10/10	Sing	Nol	Cont
Leopard-1	7/10	Sing	QCSL	C Clink(Hyundai)
Pioneer Sun	8/10	Sing	PI (BD)	Cont
QC Pintail (Cont) 27/9	8/10	Sing	BSC	Sing
Tug De Ping	8/10	S Hai	OWSL	-
Submersible Barge-Zhong	8/10	S Hai	OWSL	-
Orient Independence (Cont) 9/10	10/10	Nikola	BDSHIP	Cont
Banga Buoy (Cont) 1/10	10/10	Sing	BDSHIP	GI
Hpaan	10/10	Yang	MTA	Rice(P)
Yasmina	15/10	OKHA	SMSL	Cont
QC Teal (Cont) 2/10	12/10	Sing	QCSL	Cont
Rathet	13/10	Yang	STA	Rice(P)
Kota Berjaya (Cont) 1/10	13/10	Sing	PI (BD)	Cont

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Nagayev	4/10	Bela	TSL	CPO
Al Badiyah	5/10	Kara	ECSL	-
Pioneer Spirit	5/10	Sing	ECSL	LBO
Eminence	4/10	Juba	ECSL	HSD
Fortune Sea	6/10	Jebe	Unique	-

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/4
Ismaya	-	-	BBAL	17/8
Dea Champion	-	Sing	Arafeen	R/A(24/9)
Recal Eastern	-	Sing	BBAL	28/9
Sea Bulk Command	-	-	IJS	R/A (27/9)
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (2/10)
Sea Bulk Danah	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (3/10)
Dea Captain	-	Sing	Arafeen	3/10

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on				
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Bay Fortune	GI/Rice (P)	Yang	SMSL	20/9
Ocean-1	GI	Yang	SMSL	28/9
Alas (18)	GI (ST Prod)	Hald	HAS	2/10
OSG Argosy	Cont	Col	Average	4/10
Xpress Padma (Cont)	Cont	Sing	RSL	3/10
Chu Hong(Cont)	Cont	Sing	QCSL	3/10
Banglar Moni(Cont)	Cont	Sing	Bsc	4/10
Banga Biro(Cont)	Cont	P Kel	Bsdhit	4/10

### Vessels awaiting instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Banglar Urmu	-	-	BSC	R/A (20/9)
Banglar Gourab	-	-	BSC	R/A (2/10)

### Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Linghai-18	GI(Matze)	Ying	Bsl	21/9
Malika Naree	Tsp(P)	Durb	BSL	17/9
Sea Destiny	MOFPJ	Ikol	Litmond	25/9
Alletgro	Scraping	RML	-	15/9
Westwind	Scraping	Tuti	UMIL	28/9
Accord	Cement	-	Viking	05/9
Revenge	-	-	Sunshine	R/A(9/10)
Xing-Xe	Rice(G)	-	MBCSL	R/A(20/8)
Karya Sentosa	Rice(G)	-	USTC	R/A(9/8)
Grihe	Scraping	Setu	ARL	2/10
Tug Solano	-	Setu	ARL	2/10

### Movement of vessels for 5.10.2000

Outgoing	Incoming	Shifting
CCT/2 K Singa	CCT/2 B Robt GSJ Hyderabad DOJ Torm Lily	J/1 Shun Cheng to J/9 J/9 Bay Fortune to J/1

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

## Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Youth & Sports  
(Youth-2 Section)  
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka  
No-MOYS/Youth-2/Train-3 (11)/Appointment/2000-263 Date: 10-6-1407/25-9-2000

### Employment Notice

Applications are invited from Bangladeshi citizens for appointment of candidates to the undermentioned posts on purely temporary basis under a project titled "Development of Existing Centres and Completion of Unfinished Work, including setting up of Eleven New Youth Training Centres of the