

Four Arab states agree on free trade zone

REUTERS, Rabat

Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia agreed Tuesday to set up a free trade zone ahead of the 2010 target for trade barriers to end in the Euro-Mediterranean area.

"Morocco, Jordan, Tunisia and Egypt have decided to work to set up a free trade zone including Arab Mediterranean countries which would also be open to other Arab countries," Moroccan Foreign Minister Mohamed Benaissa told Reuters.

The agreement was signed by the four countries' foreign ministers at a ceremony in the southern city of Agadir. A Royal Palace spokesman said the accord was signed following an initiative by King Mohammed who attended the ceremony.

"Today's event is a first step

towards setting up the Great Arab Free Trade zone. We are now in a new era... ahead of the 2010 deadline for a free trade zone in the Euro-Mediterranean area," the spokesman said.

"We hope that our drive will not be limited only to accords. We hope it will translate into reality," the spokesman said.

Benaissa said the four-state free trade zone would "be ready in the short-term, probably by the end of the year."

He compared the document announcing the free-trade zone between the four countries to Rome's 1958 Steel and Coal Pact, which eventually grew into the European Union.

Libyan Foreign Minister Mohammed Abderrahmane Chalgham told Reuters the accord would

change the way Arab countries deal with their main trading partner, the European Union.

"When Arab countries negotiate with the EU, they talk to a bloc, while they look on Europeans as bits and pieces," he said.

Benaissa added that a team of experts from the four countries would meet periodically to define the technicalities of the project.

"The free trade zone will be extended to the six other Arab countries," he said in reference to Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Syria, Lebanon and the Palestinian Authority.

The EU has conducted negotiations with 12 Mediterranean states as part of the so-called Barcelona process of cooperation between the EU and its southern neighbours.



Engineer S M Kamaluddin, Chairman of Concord Group of Companies, and Abdul Matlub Ahmed, Chairman of Nitel Group, sign an agreement on behalf of their respective companies at Concord Centre in the city recently. Managing Director of KTG Thailand Tanitpong Paul and directors of Nitel Group are also seen in the picture.

Concord to build Nitel head office in city

Concord Engineers and Construction Limited and Nitel Group recently signed a construction agreement, says a press release.

Under the agreement, Concord will construct the head office building of Nitel Group in Dhaka.

The building will be constructed with state-of-the-art technology having all sorts of provisions for earthquake resistance.

Considering both architectural and structural designs, the building will be the first of its kind in Bangladesh and will be constructed within thirty-three months only.

The building will have a helipad on its roof-top, it said.

AB Bank CEO meets Myanmar central bank governor

C M Koyes Sami, President and CEO of Arab Bank Bangladesh Limited, along with Arif Quadri, Vice President, recently visited Myanmar to oversee the operation of the bank's representative office in Myanmar, says a press release.

They also called on Kyaw Kyaw Maung, Governor of the central bank of Myanmar, to discuss business development between the two countries. Sami apprised the governor that LCs generally opened in Bangladesh to import commodities from Myanmar are usually advised by the banks in Singapore, resulting in high cost of merchandise and loss of valuable time for the Bangladeshi importers and as well as the exporters of Myanmar.

To overcome the situation, he emphasised allowing the bank's representative office to handle LC advising and bill discounting facilities with approval of the central banks of both countries.

U Than Lwin, Deputy Governor and Chief of Foreign Exchange of the central bank, Myanmar, assisted the governor Mahmudur Rahman, Representative of ABBL in Myanmar, was also present during this discussion.

Later in the evening, Sami attended a dinner party at a local hotel arranged in honour of bankers and leading businessmen and elites of Myanmar. Sami also placed some suggestions before Myanmar exporters regarding the difficulties being faced by the importers of Bangladesh.

London owns up to blunder UK error may have exaggerated BSE risk in India

REUTERS, Rome

Britain's government has owned up to a blunder in which exports of meat-and-bone meal were wrongly registered as going to India rather than Indonesia - possibly exaggerating India's risk of harbouring mad cow disease.

Britain erroneously reported that it had exported meat-and-bone meal (MBM) to India between 1980 and 2000, according to Indian and UK documents made available to Reuters.

A letter from the British Agriculture Ministry to the International Food Industry Federation in Cheltenham, England, dated December 4, 2000, referred to the error.

"Some figures relating to India have been mistakenly entered under India. I can now confirm that there have been no exports to India from 1980 to date of products coming under the HM Customs and Excise heading of 'Flours, meals and pellets of meat or meat offals,' it said.

"Please accept my apologies for any inconvenience that this error may have caused."

According to a letter from India's Commerce Ministry to the

UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) dated April 16, 2001, Britain's Agriculture Ministry had quoted UK Customs and Excise as saying UK exports of MBM to Indonesia had "mistakenly" been entered in data on exports to India.

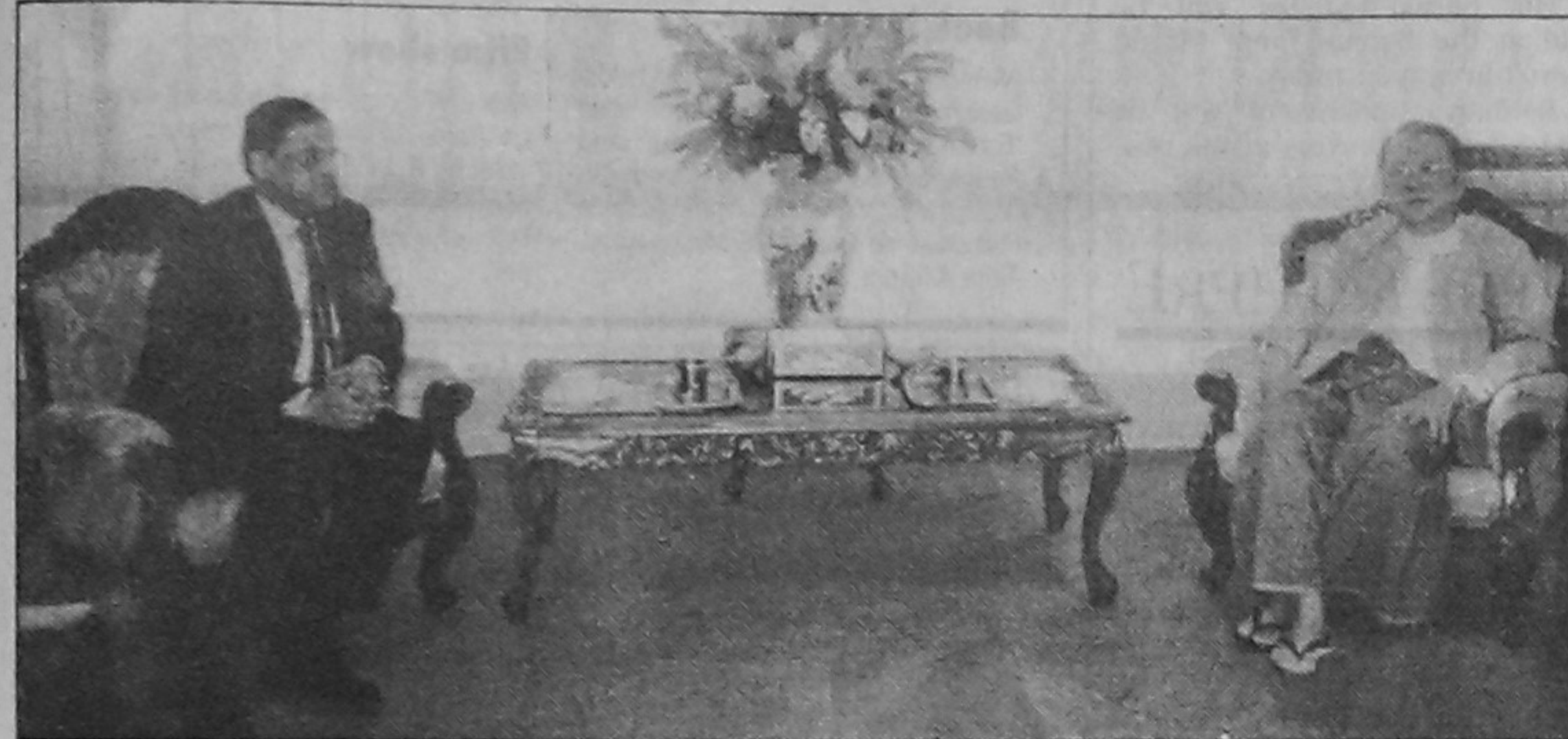
A British Customs and Excise official, Maureen Barrell, confirmed to Reuters that the error had occurred and that the MBM exports to Indonesia had been mistakenly assigned to India.

"There was an error in which exports to Indonesia were credited to India," she said. "We want to clarify the situation."

Risk assessment
The British export figures had complicated FAO's analysis of the risk of mad cow disease, or bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) in India.

"India's BSE risk is possibly lower than earlier reported," Andrew Speedy, FAO's senior officer for feed resources, told Reuters on Tuesday.

He added that Eastern Europe and possibly the Middle East had the highest risk among countries outside Western Europe of harbouring mad cow disease.



C M Koyes Sami, President and CEO of AB Bank, discussing things with Governor of the Central Bank of Myanmar during the former's visit to the country.

BPDB's International Tender Notice

- The Govt of People's Republic of Bangladesh is expected to allocate necessary funds in cash foreign exchange towards the cost of the Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project, Phase-III and intends to apply part of the proceeds of this allocation to eligible payments under the contract (hereinafter referred to as contract) for which the invitation for bids in issued, payment by the government will be made only in cash foreign exchange.
Contract: GCPDP-III, for Supply of 11 kv and 0.4 kv Bundled Aerial Cable.
 - Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB) the executing agency now invites international sealed bid in one envelope system from the bidders of eligible countries for supply of goods in following Bid:-
- | Sl No | Bid Enquiry No | Name of Material/s | Value of Bidding Document |
|-------|-------------------------------|---|---------------------------|
| 1 | Pur-106/2001 Date: 07.05.2001 | Supply of 11 kv & 0.4 kv Bundled Aerial Cable | Tk 5000.00 |
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the Director, Purchase, BPDB (9th Floor), WAPDA Building Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh (Telephone No 9550532 or 9550259, Telex No 675617 BPB BJ).
 - A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested eligible bidder on submission of a written application and upon payment of non-refundable fee as mentioned in column-4 of clause-2 above in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of the undersigned.
 - Bidding documents will be available for sale from 10.05.2001 to 24.06.2001 in the office of the undersigned during office hours.
 - Each bid must be accompanied by a bid security of US\$10,000 of total bid amount in the form of Bank Guarantee in prescribed form in the tender document. In case of bid bond from a foreign bank, it must be endorsed by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh.
 - Tender will be received upto 11.00 AM on 27.06.2001 and will be opened at 11.30 AM on the same day in presence of the intending bidders or their representatives if any at the office of Director, Purchase, BPDB WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
 - Bids submitted by Fax, Telex, or cable will be rejected.
 - BPDB, will not be responsible for any costs or expenses incurred by bidders in connection with the preparation or submission of bids.
 - Bids submitted beyond scheduled time will neither be received nor accepted.

Biddat-Jan-2122(5)/2000-2001
GD-434

Director, Purchase
BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor)
Motijheel C/A, Dhaka

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer (R&H)
Road Division, Shariatpur

Tender Invitation Notice

- Tender Notice No : 24/EE/SRD/2000-2001.
- Name of work : Construction and installation of Kilometre Post at different kilometres and installation of signal sign at different crossings of different roads under Shariatpur Road Division during 2000-2001 financial year. Divided in 3 (three) groups.
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : -do- -do-
- Time limit for completion of work : -do- -do-
- Eligibility of contractor : R&H Directorate's 'A' to 'C' general class, Faridpur Road Circle's 'D' general class and Shariatpur Road Division's 'E' general class contractors.
- Offices where tender to be had at : Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Shariatpur/Madaripur/Gopalganj/Faridpur/Rajbari/Sub-divisional Engineer (R&H), Road Sub-Division, Shariatpur.
- Offices where tender to be received at : Superintending Engineer (R&H), Road Circle, Faridpur/Executive Engineer, (R&H), Road Division, Shariatpur.
- Last date & time of selling tender : 16-05-2001 up to office hours.
- Last date & time of receiving tender : 17-05-2001 up to 12:30 PM.
- Date & time of opening tender : 20-05-2001 at 10:00 AM at the office chamber of the undersigned.
- Date & time of lottery (if necessary) : 22-05-2001 at 11:00 AM at the office chamber of the undersigned.
- Head of expenditure : 266 Development.

Group List				
Tender Notice No: 24/EE/SRD/2000-2001				
Gr No	Name of work & location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time limit for completion of work
1)	Construction and installation of Kilometre Post from 9 th km to 52 nd km of Madaripur-Shariatpur-Bhedarganj-Chandpur Road under Shariatpur Road Division during 2000-2001 financial year.	Tk 2,13,905/=	Tk 4,278/=	15 (fifteen) days
2)	Construction and installation of Kilometre Post from 0.00 km to 32 nd km of Shariatpur-Jagira-Kawrakandi road and from 0.00 km to 11 th km of Shariatpur-Naria road under Shariatpur Road Division during 2000-2001 financial year.	Tk 2,18,972/=	Tk 4,379/=	15 (fifteen) days
3)	Installation of Sign Signal Board at different crossings of Shariatpur-Chandpur Ferry Link road under Shariatpur Road Division during 2000-2001 financial year.	Tk 1,01,322/=	Tk 2,027/=	10 (ten) days

DFP-11844-2/5
G-867

Kazi Nazibul Haque
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Road Division, Shariatpur

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

সভার, ঢাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং - ১৯/২০০০-২০০১ তারিখঃ ০৮-০৫-২০০১ইং

জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের ২৬ নং ফরেস্ট নিম্নলিখিত কাজের জন্য সীলমোহরকৃত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাবে।

ক্রমিক নং	কাজের নাম	আনুমানিক বায় বরাদ্দ	আনুমানিক পরিমাণ	প্রতিষ্ঠান দরপত্রের মূল্য (অফেরতযোগ্য)	কাজ সমাপ্তির সময়সীমা	ঠিকাদারের যোগ্যতা
১।	মীর মশরাফ হোসেন হলের সংরক্ষণ।	৯০,০০০/-	১,৮০০/-	৫০/-	৬০ দিন	জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
২।	আল-বেক্কী হলের সংরক্ষণ।	৭৪,৮১৮/-	১,৪৯৭/-	৫০/-	৯০ দিন	ঐ-
৩।	কলা ও মানবিক অনুষদ ভবনে পানির লাইন স্থাপন কাজ (পুনঃ দরপত্র)।	২,৫০,৮০২/-	৫,০১০/-	১০০/-	৩০ দিন	ঐ-
৪।	১০ নং হলের (বঙ্গবন্ধু শেখ মুজিব রহমান হল) রাস্তার মাটি ভাটের কাজ (২য় বার পুনঃ দরপত্র)।	৩,২৫,৪৭৪/-	৬,৫০৮/-	১০০/-	৬০ দিন	ঐ-
৫।	ডি-৪১ হইতে ৪৮ নং বাস ভবনের কাঠের সংরক্ষণ কাজ (২য় বার পুনঃ দরপত্র)।	৮৫,৬০০/-	১,৭১২/-	৫০/-	৬০ দিন	ঐ-
৬।	বিভিন্ন অফিস ও বিভাগের জন্য ঝিল ও কাঠের আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ।	৭৮,৫০০/-	৫,৮৮৮/-	৫০/-	৬০ দিন	অভিজ্ঞতা সম্পন্ন ঝিল ও কাঠের আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহকারী সংস্থা। যাহারা টার ওভার মূল্য সংযোজন করে অফার দিবে।

দরপত্রের আগতপত্রসমূহ (সিডিউল) আগামী ১৩-০৫-২০০১ইং তারিখ হইতে ১৫-০৫-২০০১ইং তারিখ পর্যন্ত জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় এলাকায় অবস্থিত অরুণা বাংলোর শাখা হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন (দুপুর ২:০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত) সময়ে লিখিত আবেদনের মাধ্যমে নিম্নলিখিতকারীরা অনুমতিক্রমে জমা করা যাবে। এখানে উল্লেখ্য যে, ৬ নং কাজের জন্য পূর্ব অভিজ্ঞতার প্রমাণ-হিসাবে গত ১ বছরের মধ্যে সরকারী/আসবাবকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে আসবাবপত্র সরবরাহ কাজের কার্যদেখ, কাজ সমাপ্তির সত্যায়িতকৃত সার্টিফিকেটসহ হাল ন্যায় ডায়/টাই ওভার, আয়কর পরিশোধ সত্যায়িতকারী কার্যপত্র অবশ্যই আবেদনপত্রের সাথে দিতে হবে।

দরপত্র গ্রহণ ও খোলার তারিখসহ অন্যান্য বিশেষ শর্তাবলী দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত থাকিবে।

এ কে এম নেহার উদ্দিন চৌধুরী
জাহাঙ্গীরনগর বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়
সভার, ঢাকা।

CURRENCY

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to major clients. Central bank buying and selling band of USD: BDT 53.85/BDT 54.15

Selling		Buying	
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight
34.3100	54.3400	USD	53.8500
48.8359	48.9220	EUR	47.0032
77.9560	77.9980	GBP	76.4308
28.6557	28.6802	AUD	27.5900
0.4499	0.4501	JPY	0.4384
31.5040	31.5285	CHF	30.7541
5.2941	5.2993	SEK	5.2043
35.2966	35.3212	CAD	34.7217
6.9673	6.9686	HKD	6.9027
29.844	29.8651	SGD	29.4162
14.9084	14.9260	AED	14.5337
14.5964	14.6148	SAR	14.2510

Usance export bills

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7390	53.4074	52.9648	52.4558	51.9025	50.8633

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Lankan Rupee	Indo Rupiah	NZ Dollar
46.79/46.83	61.20/61.70	45.58/45.62	90.00/90.30	10965/10980	0.4216/0.4223

US dollar

Cash notes	Buying	Selling	Months	1	3
TC	53.6129	54.3100	USD	4.17750%	4.09875%
			GBP	5.33797%	5.24675%

Rate to customer: USD

Tenor	NFCD	RFCD	Tenor	NFCD
1	2.86%	2.61%	1	4.03%
3	2.77%	2.52%	3	4.07%
6	2.74%	2.49%	6	4.01%
12	2.87%	2.62%	12	3.95%

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 9.5.2001.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
1/2	Huang Yun	Gl(S Scraping)	Kara	Jaycee	17/4	15/5
1/3	Da Cheng	Gl(P.Mat)	Xian	Bdship	1/5	12/5
1/4	Chief of Cherokee(72)	Gl(St.E)	Sing	ASA	5/5	11/5
1/5	Banglar Kakoli	Rice(P)	Kara	BSC	11/4	16/5
1/6	Mawlamyne	Rice(P)	Yang	MTA	22/4	17/5
1/7	Yong Jiang	Gl	S. Hai	Bdship	3/5	12/5
1/8	Xuang Cheng	Gl	S. Hai	Bdship	30/4	12/5
1/9	Zara	Gl(Y. MA)	Sanlo	Angelic	12/4	10/5
1/10	Wood Link	Wheat(P)/Gl	Vanc	Mutual	17/4	14/5
1/11	QC Teal	Cont	Mong	QCSL	6/5	10/5
1/12	Aretemis	Cont	Sing	TTL	5/5	11/5
1/13	Banga Birol	Cont	Sing	Bdship	3/5	11/5
CCT/1	Xpress Nuptse	Cont	Sing	RSL	2/5	10/5
CCT/2	Xpress Renown	Cont	Col	Everbest	3/5	10/5
CCT/3	Banga Bonik	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	4/5	9/5
RM/14	Sung Risan-9	Cement	Tuba	Ancl	28/4	16/5
CCJ	Philia	C.Clink	Tanu	Seacom	6/5	15/5
TSP	Thank God	R.Phos	Hamr	Sacoast	12/4	20/5
RM/6	Pacific Emerald	Gl(Copra)	Damya	Alseas	R/A	10/5
DOJ	Al Badiah	HSD	Shua	Ecl	3/5	12/5
DDJ/1	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	14/5
RM/8	Le Chenging	C.Clink	Koshi	RML	9/4	12/5
RM/9	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	9/5
CUFLJ	Mary Nour	Cement	Lang	BSL	29/4	12/5

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banga Biraj (Cont)26/4	9/5	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Chopoi-2	9/5	Koshi	Seacoast	Sugar	-
Eltanin	9/5	Yang	SMSL	Gl+Rice(P)	-
Brave Eagle	9/5	Hal	UMTL	Demolition	-
OSG Alpha(Cont)3/5	9/5	-	Everbest	Cont	Col
Souali	10/5	Krab	RML	Gypsum	-
Tug Ocean Mercury	10/5	Sing	MBL	P. Items	-
Barge Labroy-160	10/5	Sing	MBL	-	-
Kota Berjaya(Cont)	10/5	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Kuo Hsiung(Cont)30/4	10/5	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Bay Sisters	10/5	Sing	Everest	Urea	Aust
Mana	12/5	-	PSAL	C.Clink	-
Banglar Moni	11/5	MGL	SSST	Wheat	-
Togo Charm	10/5	Tanj	Uniship	C.Clink	-
Ocean Blue (Roro)24/3/5	11/5	P. Kel	Everest	Vehi	-
Jasmi(Cont)2/5	11/5	Sing	Cross	Cont	Sing
QC Lark (Cont)3/5	11/5	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Bangla Shikha (Cont)2/5	15/5	-	BSC	Cont	Sing
Xpress resolve (Cont)3/05	12/5	-	RSL	Cont	Sing
Abuja (Cont)3/5	12/5	-	RSL	Cont	Sing
Apl Colombo(Cont)3/5	13/5	-	NOL	Cont	Sing
QC Pintail (Cont)26/4	17/5	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Nonghai Navee	14/5	Thai	Mutual	-	-
Banga Lanka (Cont)5/5	15/5	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Ravadas(E/L)3/5	15/5	-	SSLL	E/L	Ant
Banga Bijoy(Cont)7/5	15/5	-	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Jurong Balsam(Cont)7/5	15/5	Sing	NOL	Cont	Sing
Jaguar	16/5	-	Everest	Spl.Cargo	-
Annas	16/5	TIBB	Uniship	Scarp	-
Khaleda	17/5	Mong	Owsl	-	-
Kota Singa (Cont)7/5	17/5	Sing	PIL(BD)	Cont	Sing
Acturia (Cont)7/5	17/5	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Salzach(Cont)7/5	17/5	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Sea Bright (Cont)8/5	19/5	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Name of vessels
