BUSINESS

WTO rules against US in \$4b tax break row with EU

The World Trade Organisation on Monday ruled that US export tax breaks for US companies violate WTO rules, handing a major victory to the European Union in the long battle between the two economic superpowers.

The WTO appellate body upheld an earlier ruling in favour of the 15nation FU which had complained the US tax breaks undermined European industry to the tune of about four billion dollars (4.48 billion euros) a year.

The judgement now opens the way for the EU to apply for sanctions against the United States. It has said in the past it would seek damages of four billion dollars per year. If approved, the compensation would be the biggest in a WTO case.

Voicing disappointment, the White House said the US would consult with Congress and the affected US interests on the next steps to take.

"The United States respects its WTO obligations, which serve America's interests. We intend to seek to cooperate with the EU in order to manage and resolve this dispute," White House national security spokesman Sean

McCormack said. The EU expressed pleasure at the the final ruling in the long-running

"We now have a definitive legal ruling on the FSC case," EU Trade

Commissioner Pascal Lamy said in a statement from Geneva.

"Of course I'm pleased that the WTO has confirmed what we always believed... Now it is up to the US to comply... to settle this matter once and

Monday's ruling was the fourth by the WTO against the United States in the case, and followed the appeal by the US of an earlier judgement that the export tax breaks were inconsistent with WTO subsidy rules. The EU first challenged the US tax breaks at the Geneva-based WTO in

1997 on the grounds that they provided a de facto subsidy that gives US companies an unfair advantage over European rivals.

The US Congress passed in 2000 legislation overhauling the law after the WTO ruled against Washington, but the EU complained to the WTO that the changes were inadequate.

The WTO's dispute settlement panel again agreed, ruling last August that the US was still in violation.

The dispute centres around the "foreign sales corporation" (FSC) provision of the US tax law, which allows US companies to establish offshore subsidiaries where they enjoy significant tax breaks on profits earned from

Most of the FSC corporations are located in Barbados as well as US territories such as the US Virgin Islands and Guam

Argentina to

measures

AFP, Buenos Aires

amend anti-crisis

The Argentine government Monday

was considering amendments to

tough anti-crisis measures in a

delicate balancing act between

At the same time, a fact-finding

team from the International

Monetary Fund, the second in a

week, arrived in Buenos Aires to

assess the shattered economy

The team was expected to

inflation and economic growth.

Foreign Minister M Morshed Khan inaugurates the first unit of Aqua Paint Factory of Octagon Fibers and Chemicals Ltd at Tongi recently.

Donors scramble to help ease Afghan cash crisis

International donor countries scrambled Tuesday to try to ease Afghanistan's immediate cash crisis after the United Nations warned the new interim administration was teetering on the verge of bank-

Representatives of the Afghanistan Assistance Group (ASG), comprising 16 European and Asian donor countries, went into a huddle here with the UN and members of the interim administration in a bid to resolve the crisis

Foreign Minister Abdullah Abdullah told reporters after the

Heidelberg starts road show for ScanCement, RubyCement

HeidelbergCement Group, the largest cement manufacturer in Bangladesh with a production of 15 lakh metric tonnes of cement per year, recently started a countrywide campaign of two most popular brands in the country --ScanCement and RubyCement,

The campaign will cover 50

Assistant Vice President of Marketing and Sales of ScanCement International Limited and Rai Shahabuddin. Deputy General Manager of Marketing and Sales of Chittagong Cement Clinker Grinding Co Ltd.

President, Marketing and Sales, Christer Eriksson, is also visiting some of the districts with the teams

meeting that around 10 million dollars was needed immediately to pay civil servants for "something like one month '

A UN spokesman had said on Monday around 100 million dollars was needed for salaries for the country's 250,000 civil servants, who have not been paid for the past

six months Head of the ASG. Swedish deputy foreign minister Vidar Helgesen, said after Tuesday's meeting that ASG member states would be urged to come quickly to

the aid of the interim administration. "The really key message from this meeting is that the administration needs immediate funding to be able to function, to pay salaries, and to go ahead and take the lead in shaping the future of their own country," Helgesen said.

"This is about keeping the credibility of the administration,"

"It is very clear on behalf of the donor community that if we are serious about having the Afghans in the driver's seat, about having the Afghans taking the lead in the reconstruction of their own country, we need to support the administration.

The meeting was also attended by UN special representative to Afghanistan, Lakhdar Brahimi.

"It's the most urgent need."

On Monday, Brahimi's spokesman Ahmed Fawzi told the media that the national kitty now stood at less than 10 million dollars.

"This administration needs several million dollars tomorrow, otherwise there will be no country when the billions are available," he said, referring to a planned international reconstruction package

A "start-up fund" established for the government after the inter-Afghan conference in Bonn last month had called for donations of 20 million dollars, but pledges of only 17.8 million dollars had been made Of this, only 8.6 million dollars had

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank							
Selling		Currency	Buying				
TT/OD	BC		TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer		
58.5500	58.5800	USD	57.4000	57.2314	57.1661		
52.8062	52.8333	EUR	508392	50.6899	50.6321		
85.3542	85.3979	GBP	82.7134	82.4704	82.3764		
30.7973	30.8131	AUD	29.2453	29.1594	29.1262		
0.4472	0.4474	JPY	0.4332	0.4319	0.4314		
35.5042	35.5224	CHF	34.4889	34.3856	34.3464		
5.7066	5.7096	SEK	5.5118	5.4956	5.4894		
36.9494	36.9683	CAD	35.8392	35.7339	35.6931		
7.5153	7.5191	HKD	7.3529	7.3313	7.3230		
32.0734	32.0898	SGD	31.1872	31.0956	31.06011		
16.0724	16.0806	AED	15.5026	15.4571	15.4395		
15.7371	15.7452	SAR	15.1848	15.11402	15.1229		
Usance export bills							

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active Tuesday. Demand for dollar was high Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was significantly high and the call rate ranged be

49.5229 49.0006 47.8306

80.5719

50.0035

81.3537

50.7344

50.4213

82.0336

In the international market, yen gained slightly against dollar as it was encouraged by fresh signs of Asian displeasure with Japan's acceptance of a weak currency. The governor of China's central bank warned a weaker yen could pressure the Chines yuan and called on Japan to maintain yen's stability. This comment was the latest in a string of objections from countries in the region that complain Japan is seeking an unfair competitive advantage by deliberately weakening its currency Meanwhile Japan's Finance Ministry's forex chief Haruhito Kuroda commented the currencies should reflect economic fundamentals and move in a stable manner.

Euro became a little weaker against dollar. However, the single currency derived some support from a German newspaper's report that China plans to double the proportion of its foreign exchange

At 1330 hrs on Tuesday, euro traded at 0.8916/19 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4482/92 and ven traded at 131,22/31 against US dollar

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Chittagong Port Berth position and performance of vessels as on 15.1,2002

Vessels due at outer anchorage: 15.1.2002

Chembulk Trader

Vessels at Kutbdia

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Lea- ving	lmport disch
J/1	Virginia (Liner)	GI	Sing	Prog	10/1	18/1	2825
J/2	Eltanin	GI(Ma/Log)	Yang	Royal	1/1	16/1	1435
J/3	Joy World	Ğİ	Jaka	SSLL	12/1	15/1	2421
J/4	San Pablo (Roro/24)	Vehi	P.Kel	JF	12/1	15/1	611
J/5	Pacific Emerald (Ebl) GI (Cop/Log) Kara	Litmond	23/2	17/1	574
J/6	Maersk Consteliation	n Wheat(G)	Jaci	Lams	12/1	19/1	1349
1/7	An Lu Jiang	Urea (BCIC)	Sing	Uniship	6/1	18/1	693
J/8	Da Tian	Urea (BCIC)	Yang	Litmond	9/1	25/1	794
1/9	Jin Cheng (Liner)	GI	Busa	BD Ship	10/1	17/1	2990
/11	Banga Bijoy (Flag)	Cont	Col	Baridhi	13/1	16/1	84/x
/12	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	11/1	16/1	171/x
/13	Kuo Hsiung	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	10/1	16/1	x/2
CT/1	Gihock	Cont	Sing	Rsl	12/01	17/1	149/35
CCT/2	Jaami (Flag)	Cont	Col	Everbest	11/1	15/1	
CCT/3	Banglar Shikha (Flag	g) Cont	Sing	BSC	13/1	17/1	293/123
3SJ	Makmur Perkasa	TSP(P)	Sing	Unique	9/1	20/1	1029
RM/3	Performance-9	CFC	Bel	Rainbow	13/1	15/1	1912
RM/4	Trompeteros	CDSO	Kaki	Rainbow	12/1	17/1	4189
OOJ:	Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil	K.Dia	Bsc	R/A	15/01	13258
DDJ/1	Sonali	Repair	Yang	Angelic	31/10	20/1	
RM/9	Banglar Mookh	ldle	-	BSC	R/A	20/1	
C/Jetty	Tug SBM-1	Ballast	Sing	OTBL	9/12	-	
	Tug Jubilee Dua	Ballast	Sing	OTBL	9/12		

Name of vessels	Date of	L Port	Local	Name of	Loading
	arvl	call	agent	cargo	
Puma (24)8/1	15/1	BOMB	Everett	SPL. Cargo	
QC Teal (Cont) 8/1	15/1	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
Diana	15/1	-	PSAL	Gypsum	
Zee One	17/1	-	PSAL	Fert (BCIC).	M. Jetty
Togo Charm	16/1	Lang	Seacom	C Clink (CCJ)	
BC. Cook (Cont) 6/1	16/1	P Kel	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
K Agung (Cont) 7/1	16/1	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	L/Sing
B . Lanka (Cont)5/1	16/1	Sing	BD Ship	Cont	L/Sing
Rizoun Trader	16/1	Yant	Litmond	Urea (BCIC)	M. Jetty
Keng Tung (72) 12/1	16/1	Yang	Everett	GI (ST. C)	-
Amazon	17/1	Bont	Uniship	Urea (BCIC)	M. Jetty
State of Nagaland (E/L) 6/1	19/1	Mong	SSLL	E/L L/A	nt. Dundee
Spring Ocean	19/1	Sing	Everett	GI(ST.C)	
Al Muztuba	18/1	Col	CLA	GI (S.Ash)	
Triumph Mumbai	18/1	Sing	RML	GI (P.Equip)	
QC Pintail (Cont) 3/1	18/1	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Mong
QC Lark (Cont) 8/1	18/1	PKL	QCSL	Cont	L/P Ke
Uni Wealth (Cont) 8/1	18/1	Sing	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Discoverer	18/1	PĸĬ	BSL	C Clink (Scan)	•
Banga. Bonik (Cont) 9/1	19/1	-	Baridhi	Cont	L/Co
Jaya Mars (Cont) 12/1	19/1	-	Rsl	Cont	L/.Sing
Sinhai (Cont) 10/1	20/1	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
Dignity (Cont)	20/1	PĸĬ	Qcsl	Cont	L/.Sing
B. Birol (Cont) 10/1	20/1	-	BD Ship	Cont	L/Sing
Artemis (Cont) 12/1	20/1	-	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
Castillo De Quermenso	20/1	Beil	OWSL	For Demolition	
B. Barta (Cont) 7/1	20/1	-	BD Ship	Cont	L/Sing
K Naga (Cont) 10/1	21/1	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	L/Sing
Sea Jewel	21/1	Sing	Rkship	For Scraping	
XP. Padma (Cont) 12/1	23/1	-	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Commandant Ducuting	24/1	Cochin	JF	For Visit	
B. Biraj (Cont) 14/1	24/1	-	Bdship	Cont	L/.Sing
QC Honour (Cont) 13/1	25/1	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Sinc
Jeon Jin	16/1	-	Atlantic	R. Phos (TSP)	,
Tanker due:				, ,	
Dai Long	15/1	Sing	Mstpl	HSD(RM/6)	
Rosa-T	16/1	Roza	Seacom	CDSO(RM/6)	
Selendang Muttiara	15/1	Sing		SKO/JET-1 (RM/6)	
OL 1 11 T 1	00/4	- L	DD 01.	0000 (0144)	

20/1

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local	Date of
		call	agent	arrival
Vessels at Kutubdia/o	utside port limi	t:		
Eirini	C. Oil	Rast	Unique	8/1
Banglar Jyoti	C.Oil	-	Bsc	R/A (14/1)
Vessels at outer anch	orage:			
Vessels ready:				
Jat Na Mu	Urea	Sing	PSAL	11/1
Leona	GI	Sing	Prog	12/1
Capetan Leeteris	GI (Y.Pe)	Sing	Rainbow	8/1
Vessels not ready:				
Pavonis	Salt/S. Ash	Bedi	PSL	8/1
Oriental Queen	C Clink	Thai	RML	10/1
Power	C Clink	Sing	PSAL	10/1
Spica	GI	Yang	Royal	14/11
Sun Gracia	Сро	Mala	Rainbow	15/1
Vessels awaiting inst	ruction:			
Banglar Gourab	Ballast	Mong	BSC	8/1
Angelina The Great-N	-	-	RAINBOW	R/A (11/1
Vessels not entering:				
Florealis	Urea	Basu	Uniship	30/12
Athens of the North	C Clink	Kant	OLM	31/12
Nand Srishti	C Clink	Kant	Unique	7/1
Santosa	C Clink	Kosh	ANCL	18/1
Pearl of Bahrain	C Clink	Baha	Uniship	12/1
Blue Lady	C Clink	Tanj	OLM	18/1
Pioneer Sun	C.Clink	Hoping	Rainbow	14/1
Puppy-F	Scraping	Sing	Rkship	12/1
Ryujing Maru	Scraping	Sing	Rsship	8/1
Ocean Hope	Scraping	Sing	Rsship	8/1
Matrix	ldle	Tuni	SSST	21/11
Accord	Cement	Sing	Viking	5/4

BD Ship CDSO (RM/4)

Movement of vessels for:16.1.2002 Incoming Outgoing Shifting Fltanin Kota Aguna J/3 Puma Banga Lanka Keng Jung J/11 Banga Bijov J/3 Leona Kota Berjaya Pavonis Kuo Hsiung .1/13 Spica NB Togo Charm Doj Banglar Jyoti Capetan Leeteries Sun Gracia Rm3 Banglar Shourab Doj The above are shipping position and performance of vessels at Chittagong port as per berthing sheet of

CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka

China urges region-wide free trade after Japan-S'pore pact

China reacted to the inking of a freetrade pact between Japan and

forum ought to be the main channel for promoting prosperity in Asia. The '10 plus three' plan for an

cooperation, with '10 plus three' as the main channel for promoting the common development of the entire Asian region," ministry spokesman Sun Yuxi said at a briefing.

Visiting Japanese Prime Minister Tong on Sunday signed a free trade agreement, the first ever for the

the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) as well as China, Japan and South Korea should remain the main focus for development in the region, China's foreign ministry said.

"Asian countries should stress

Junichiro Koizumi and his Singaporean counterpart Goh Chok world's second largest economy.



Monday



As a part of the countrywide campaign for ScanCement and RubyCement, Maruf Ahmed, Area Sales Manager of the company, explaining the new schemes designed for the dealers of Mymensingh recently. Also seen are AVP Ramakanta Bhattacharjee and VP Christer Eriksson.

says a press release.

districts in the country. The 'Road Show' comprises of moving of containers, trucks, pick-ups and other vehicles through the district towns headed by two team leaders -Ramakanta Bhattacharjee, the

The team is formed with assistant managers and executives. The Vice