

EU set to ban Chinese shrimps, other foods

AFP, Brussels

The European Commission said Friday it would ban poultry meat, rabbit meat and frozen shrimps and prawns from China on health grounds from next week after an expert veterinary panel approved the measure.

In a statement, it said it was taking action after an EU mission to China last November found problems related to the use of banned veterinary medicines, including a powerful antibiotic called chloramphenicol.

"In the light of further discoveries of banned substances, the commission now considers that a safeguard measure is warranted," it said.

The Standing Veterinary Committee, which gives expert advice to the EU's executive branch on food safety, voted Friday in favor of the ban, which will be put into force next week through a formal commission decision.

"The commission intends to work urgently with the

Chinese authorities with a view to putting in place the necessary measures to allow trade to resume," the statement said.

It would review the situation with EU member states "before the end of February ... in the light of any further information offered by the competent Chinese authorities" and by possible follow-up EU inspections, it said.

Though it represents a tiny slice of their multi-billion-dollar trade, the ban puts a damper on EU-China relations following Beijing's widely welcomed entry into the World Trade Organization (WTO) in mid-December.

In 2000 the EU imported 327.7 million euros' (288.4 million dollars) worth of products from China affected by the ban: poultry meat, rabbit meat, honey, molluscs, crustaceans such as frozen shrimps and prawns, and pet food.

Spared from the ban will be open-sea fishery products, except crustaceans.



Abu Taher Miah, Chairman of National Bank Ltd, delivers his inaugural speech at the annual conference of the executives and managers of the bank held at a local hotel on Saturday. Khalilur Rahman, M Nurul Islam, Md Shamsuzzoha, Directors, Shahadat Hossain Salim, Nadia Islam and Khalilur Rahman Majnu, Alternate Directors, and Rafiqul Islam Khan, Managing Director of the bank, are also seen in the picture.

NBL annual confce held

The annual conference of the executives and the managers of National Bank Ltd was held at a local hotel on Saturday, says a press release.

Abu Taher Miah, Chairman of the bank, inaugurated the conference. He congratulated the executives and managers for the success of the bank achieved last year and advised them to look for new areas of investment in the changing environment of the global economy.

Khalilur Rahman, Director of the bank, in his speech urged the managers to extend service to the doorsteps of the customers of the bank.

M Nurul Islam, another Director of the bank, advised the managers to make investment by judging the quality and business potential of the clients.

Rafiqul Islam Khan, Managing Director of the bank, in his speech said, "The success of the bank was due to continuous efforts of the executives and managers and active support of the Board of Directors of the bank. He called upon the managers for more efforts for continuous success in coming days in the competitive environment prevailing in the banking sector of the country.

Md Shamsuzzoha, Director and Md Shahadat Hossain Salim, Miss Nadia Islam, Khalilur Rahman Majnu, Alternate Directors of the bank, also spoke on the occasion.

The performance of the bank and the business target were fixed in the business session of the conference. Mustaque Ahmed and Anwar Imam, Deputy Managing Directors of the bank, were also present.

Pakistan to privatise largest oil company

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf Saturday approved the privatisation of the country's largest oil distribution company Pakistan State Oil, the government said.

Pakistan State Oil (PSO), which holds a domestic market share of more than 70 per cent, will be offered to prospective investors from next month, a government statement said.

The decision was reached at a meeting, chaired by Musharraf and

including several ministers, to review the progress of the government's privatisation plans.

"It was decided to privatise PSO as an integrated entity with adequate safeguards in the transaction structure to ensure the national interest is protected," the government said.

Petroleum Minister Usman Aminuddin would finalise a policy statement for Pakistan's downstream oil industry before PSO is offered for sale, the government said.



Md Zakiullah Shahid, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Prime Ins Co Ltd, speaks as chief guest at the 6th annual conference of branch incharges of the company held at its head office in the city on Thursday. Photo also shows (from left to right) M Qamrul Munir, Com Secretary, Jesmin Akter, EVP, Muksed Ali Miah, DMD, M Hasmat Ali, Managing Director, M Ayubur Rahman, Consultant, Nimmi Chowdhury, EVP, and Basu Dev Chakrabarty, SVP, attending the conference.

6th annual confce of Prime Ins held

The 6th annual conference-2002 of Prime Insurance Company Ltd was held at the head office of the company in the city on Thursday, says a press release.

Md Zakiullah Shahid, Chairman of the Board of Directors, inaugurated the conference as chief guest, while Md Hashmat Ali, Managing Director of the company, presided over the conference.

Md Zakiullah Shahid distributed prizes among the branch incharges & development personnel who achieved 100 per cent or more business beyond their respective targets.

The Managing Director of the company adjudged SM Abu Hanif, Incharge of Khulna Branch as 'Man of the Year'.

Arroyo calls for closer trade ties with Europe

AFP, Manila

Philippines President Gloria Arroyo called for closer trade ties with Europe on Sunday as she prepared to make her first visit there since she came to power a year ago.

She is scheduled to fly to London late Sunday on the first leg of an eight-day foray into economic diplomacy that will also take her to Canada and the United States.

"This is my first trip to Europe since I became president. It is important that we pay more attention to Europe because we are too dependent on the American market," she told local Bombo Radio in

an interview.

"It was fortunate that the domestic market was healthy when the US market slumped, otherwise our economy could have gone down with it," she added.

Europe accounted for just 18.1 per cent, or 6.9 billion dollars, of total Philippine merchandise exports of about 38 billion dollars in calendar 2000, compared to the US share of 11.37 billion dollars or 29.8 per cent according to official figures.

Total Philippine exports to Europe in 2000 were only slightly more than its exports to Japan totaling 5.6 billion dollars.

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	57.1629	
51.4085	51.4954	EUR	48.9766	48.7932	48.7166	
83.3122	83.3542	GBP	80.2054	79.9389	79.8843	
30.9958	31.0203	AUD	28.9387	28.8463	28.7661	
0.4387	0.4388	JPY	0.4238	0.4236	0.4226	
34.6224	34.6469	CHF	33.4443	33.3497	33.2652	
5.5403	5.5454	SEK	5.3339	5.3163	5.3003	
36.3387	36.3632	CAD	35.4308	35.3372	35.2540	
7.5153	7.5166	HKD	7.3553	7.3376	7.3202	
32.088	32.1091	SGD	31.1719	31.1281	31.0135	
16.0723	16.0899	AED	15.4925	15.4706	15.4521	
15.7373	15.7557	SAR	15.1905	15.1538	15.1356	

Usance export bills						
	TT Doc	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	180 days
USD	57.2817	56.9262	56.4564	55.9139	55.3242	54.0032
EUR	48.8842	48.5825	48.1799	47.7169	47.2136	46.0863
GBP	80.0339	79.5401	78.8809	78.1229	77.2989	75.4532

The local interbank foreign exchange market was subdued on Sunday. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 6 and 7 per cent.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 27-1-2002.

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/1	Commandant Ducuing	-	Cochin	JF	23/1	28/1	
J/2	Al Muztuba	Gi	Col	CLA	22/1	28/1	542
J/3	Spring Ocean (Liner)	-	-	Everett	25/1	27/1	4340
J/4	Imabari Glory	GI(Hr C)	Khan	Rainbow	23/1	27/1	
J/5	Pavonis	Salt/S Ash	BEDI	RSL	8/1	30/1	950
J/6	Blue Lady	C Clink	Tanj	OLM	13/1	30/01	2820
J/7	Spica	GI (Log/Y. Ma)	Yang	Royal	14/1	28/1	1434
J/8	Rizzun Trader	Urea(BCIC)	Yang	Litmond	17/1	30/1	405
J/10	Jat Na Mu	Urea (BCIC)	Sing	PSAL	11/1	30/1	795
J/11	Jee One	Urea (BCIC)	Sing	PSAL	17/1	5/2	356
J/12	QC Honour	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	24/1	27/1	
J/13	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	Pli(BD)	22/1	27/1	26/x
CCT/1	Banga Birol	Cont	P Kel	Bdship	23/1	27/1	
CCT/2	Jaami (Flag)	Cont	Col	Everbest	25/1	29/1	241/82
CCT/3	Jaya Mars	Cont	Sng	RSL	22/1	27/1	
RM/14	Amazon	Urea (BCIC)	Bont	Uniship	17/1	2/2	522
TSP	Jeon Jin	R Phos	-	Atlantic	17/1	27/1	
RM/3	Ding and hai	Bitumen	Sing	H&H	26/1	27/1	
RM/5	Al Fios	HSD	Sing	MSTPL	25/1	27/1	10000
RM/6	Makmur Derkasa	TSP(P)	Sing	Unique	8/1	29/1	
DOJ	Pranedya Dwitay	F Oil	-	ECSL	R/A	27/1	
DD	Banglar moni	Repair	Mong	BSC	17/1	31/1	
DD/1	Sonali	Repair	Ynag	Angelic	31/10	30/1	
RM/9	Banglar Mookh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	30/1	
RM/10	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	K Dia	BSC	R/A	30/1	
C/jetty-Tug Sbm-1		Ballast	Sing	OTBL	9/12	-	
		Ballast	Sing	OTBL	9/12	-	

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Anvl	L Port Call	Local Agent	Name of Cargo	Loading
B. Bijoy (Cont) 17/1	27/1	Col	Baridhi	Cont	L/Col
Mana	27/1	-	PSAL	C Clink(ARA/Dia)	
Chung Jin-2	28/1	Juja	OWSL/Bitumen	(PJM) Jetly	
Sea Jewel	27/1	Sing	Rkship	For Scraping	
Kota Berjaya(Cont)16/1	28/1	Sing	Pli(BD)	Cont	L/Sing
B. Shikha (Cont)19/1	28/1	Mong	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
Kota Singa (Cont)20/1	28/1	Sing	Pli(BD)	Cont	L/Sing
Pathein	2/1	Yang	Bnsship	GI(LOG/Y Ma)	
O Freedom (Cont)19/1	29/1	PKL	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
B Robi (Cont)19/1	30/1	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Mong
B.C. Cook (Cont) 21/1	30/1	Sing	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
QC Mirage(48)26/1	30/1	-	Seacom	GI(P.Cargo)	
Triumph Mumbai	31/1	Yang	RML	GI (P. Equip)	
Kota Agung (Cont)20/01	30/1	Sing	Pli (Bd)	Cont	L/Sing
QC Teal (Cont)21/1	31/1	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
Dalian (Cont)16/1	1/2	-	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Xpress Padma (Cont)12/1	1/2	CBO	Enerbest	Cont	L/Col
B Lanka (Cont)21/1	2/2	-	Bdship	Cont	L/Sing
Konlink (Cont)22/1	2/2	-	Nel	Cont	L/Sing
QC Lark (Cont)22/1	2/2	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	P Kel
Banga Bonik(Cont)24/1	4/2	-	Bdship	Cont	L/Sing
Artemis (Cont)26/1	4/2	Sing	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
QC Dignity (Cont) 24/1	6/2	P Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
QC Pintail (Cont)22/1	7/2	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing

Tanker due

Stripe	28/1	JNPT	Seacom	CDS (RM/4/3)
Dai Long	28/1	Sing	MSTPL	HSD(RM/)
Sakura	28/1	Kuan	MTOL	Cop(RM/3/4)

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready				
Sungrisan-8	Urea	Sing	PSAL	21/1
Xpress Padma(Cont)	Cont	P Kel	RSL	26/1
Kuo Hsing (Cont)	Cont	P Kel	QCSL	26/1

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