

Harmful antibiotics discovered EU steps up tests of Southeast Asian shrimp, chicken

AFP, Brussels

The EU said Tuesday it is stepping up testing of shrimp from Vietnam and Myanmar, and shrimp and chicken from Thailand, after the discovery of harmful antibiotics.

The European Commission -- which enforces EU trade and food safety rules -- said increased testing was approved by experts from its Standing Committee for the Food Chain and Animal Health.

The measure follows the discovery during spot checks of nitrofuran residues in shrimp imported from all three Southeast Asian countries, and of chloramphenicol in Thai chicken.

Both substances have been banned for use in food-

producing animals in the 15 EU member states for several years, due to concerns they could harm human health.

In January the EU banned imports of Chinese poultry, rabbit meat, honey, mollusks, crustaceans such as frozen shrimps and prawns, and pet food after an expert report said they could be contaminated with chloramphenicol.

China said the ban violated World Trade Organization (WTO) rules, and last week it prohibited imports of cosmetics containing animal products from 18 mostly European countries for fear they could cause mad cow disease.

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Rich countries change tune after plunge in aid to poor

AFP, Monterrey, Mexico

The world's richest nations have turned a critical corner in the fight against poverty, a UN development conference heard Tuesday, but a just-released report pointed to an alarming plunge in the flow of total resources to the poor.

Commitments by the United States and European Union in the past week to boost aid to the 4.6 billion people in developing countries were insufficient by themselves, UN Secretary General Kofi Annan said.

"But these decisions do suggest that the argument on principle has now been won," Annan said in statement released at a UN development conference here in the northeastern industrial city of Monterrey, Mexico.

"All governments accept that official aid is only one element in the mix, but an essential one."

US President George W. Bush promised Thursday an extra five billion dollars in foreign aid starting in 2004 to poor countries deemed to

have made commitments to good government and market-oriented economies.

The European Union, which currently allocates 0.33 per cent of its economic output to development aid compared to 0.1 per cent in the United States, pledged the same

day to boost its figure to 0.39 per cent.

"I consider it a major breakthrough and a systemic contribution to financing development," European Commissioner for Development and Humanitarian Aid Poul Nielson said.



Bazle Mawla, ex-president and managing director of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited, addresses a function organised by the bank in the city on Sunday to bid farewell to him.

Japan, ROK take steel tariffs to WTO

AFP, Geneva

Pressure mounted on the US on Wednesday as Japan and South Korea lodged a protest at the World Trade Organisation about US protectionist measures on steel imports on the day the measures took effect.

The European Union has already launched a similar bid for the WTO to rule on the legality of the US move to slap up to 30 per cent tariffs on some imported steel.

Pakistan mulls rice board to lift exports, production

AFP, Islamabad

Pakistan is considering setting up a national rice board run jointly by the government and private sector to increase exports and production, state-run media reported on Tuesday.

Commerce Minister Abdul Razak Dawood told representatives of the Rice Export Association of Pakistan that the ministry was drawing up plans to establish the board, Associated Press of Pakistan said.

Dutch-Bangla Bank bids farewell to its ex-president

Dutch-Bangla Bank limited bade farewell to its former president managing director Bazle Mawla at a function held in the city on Sunday, says a press release.

Bazle Mawla ended his tenure on Saturday.

The executives of head office and branch managers of Dhaka City were present at the function. They recollect the contribution of Mawla to the success of DBBL.

Mawla joined DBBL as Deputy Managing Director on May 12, 1997 and took over as president and managing director on September 17, 2001. He started his banking career in 1966 with the then United Bank of Pakistan as a probationary officer.



PHOTO: BRAC UNIVERSITY

BRAC University organised a presentation on "Strategic Management-Lessons from Great Companies" at the conference room of BRAC Centre in the city on Tuesday. Dr. Faisal M. Rahman, President & CEO of APAC Group, USA and founding Dean & Professor of Graham School of Management, Saint Xavier University, Chicago, made the presentation. About 80 top and senior executives from business organisations, senior professors of Business and executives from different organisations attended the presentation. The session was chaired by Professor Jamilur Reza Choudhury, a former advisor to the caretaker government.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Selling		Buying		
TT/OD	BC	TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
58.5500	58.5800	USD 57,4000	57,2314	57,1629
52.0802	52.1069	EUR 50,1102	49,9630	49,9032
83.7909	83.8338	GBP 81,1808	80,9424	80,8455
31.2364	31.2524	AUD 29,6758	29,5886	29,5532
0,4456	0,4458	JPY 0,4317	0,4304	0,4299
35.4055	35.4236	CHF 34,3980	34,2970	34,2559
5,7536	5,7566	SEK 5,5563	5,5400	5,5334
37,1463	37,1653	CAD 36,0281	35,9223	35,8793
7,5144	7,5183	HKD 7,3521	7,3305	7,3217
32,1580	32,1744	SGD 31,2653	31,1735	31,1362
16,0724	16,0806	AED 15,5026	15,4571	15,4386
15,7371	15,7452	SAR 15,1852	15,1406	15,1225

Usance bill

TT/OD	30 days	60 days	90 days	120 days	180 days
USD 57,2817	56,9282	56,4564	55,9139	55,3242	54,0032
EUR 50,0069	49,6983	49,2865	48,8128	48,2980	47,1448
GBP 81,0135	80,5136	79,8463	79,0790	78,2450	76,3767
48,715	60,025	94,81	43,425	8,7800	0,4334
					0,52525

Exchange Rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Nor Kroner	NZ Dollar	AUP
48,715	60,025	94,81	43,425	8,7800	0,4334	0,52525

The local interbank foreign exchange market was steady Wednesday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 9 and 10 per cent for the day.

In the international market, yen lost more ground on Wednesday, hitting two-week lows against dollar. Yen's fall was aggravated by a couple of factors including US Federal Reserve's comment that the US economy has registered significant growth in recent days. Japan's all-industry index (measure of GDP) fell 0.9 per cent in January and Service Sector Index dropped 1.1 per cent.

At 1530 hours, euro traded at 0.8796/99 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4216/18 and yen traded at 131.75/80 against US dollar.

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STOCK

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 20.3.2002

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/3	Radiant Sun	Wheat (P)	Kaki	Angelic	18/3	28/3	239
J/4	Ocean Pride	C.Clin	Lank	PSAL	10/3	21/3	656
J/7	Jin Cheng (Liner)	Gi	Buss	Bdship	12/3	20/3	1184
J/9	Pinya	Gi(Maize/Log)	Yang	BNSHIP	10/3	20/3	720
J/11	Banga Lanka	Cont	P. Kel	Bdship	18/3	22/3	161/11
J/12	Orient Freedom	Cont	P. Kel	PSSL	18/3	21/3	164/X
J/13	QC Lark	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	18/3	22/3	151/36
CCT/1	Konlink	Cont	Sing	NOL	18/3	21/3	388/80
CCT/2	Mardios	Cont	P. Kel	RSL	18/3	22/3	188/30
CCT/3	Jaya Mars	Cont	Sing	RSL	17/3	20/3	153/X
RM/14	Banglar Mamata	Idle	Viza	BSC	13/2	22/3	
GSJ	Sara Star	Repair	Panj	Royal	6/3	23/3	
TSP	Bangler Kallol	R.sulp	B.Abb	Atlantic	10/3	25/3	
QC Pintail	(Cont)5/3	20/3	P.Kel	QCSL			
Aris	19/3	-		Rainbow	D.S. Dun Peas		
Sagaing (Liner)	20/3	Chen	Everett	GI(Stc)			
Skyros	25/3	CTown	JF	Scraping			
Zante	23/3	Chin	JF	Scraping			
Valverde	20/3	Sing	OTBL				
White Amanda (48)12/3	21/3	Yang	H&SL	GI(CR.Coil)			
Radian Canopus	21/3	-	PSAL	C.clink			
Ravidas (E/L)11/3	22/3	-	BdShip	Cont	E/L		Ant.Dund
QC Teal(Cont)9/3	22/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Cont		
Banga Bonik (Cont)10/3	22/3	-	Bardhi	Cont	Cont		
Ocean Juliet	22/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	Cont		
Barge Wakaei	22/3	Sing	Arafen	Proj Woks			
Palm	22/3	-	RSSA				
Hikari Orient	22/3	-	Jf	Scraping			
Triumph Mumbai	23/3	yan	RML	GI(P Equip)			
Jaami (cont) 16/3	23/3	-	Everest	Cont	Col		
Chief of Cheroze (72) 17/3	23/3	Yang					