

## Russia agrees to lift US chicken ban by Apr 10

AFP, Moscow

Russia agreed Sunday to lift its ban on US chicken imports if Russian experts were allowed to inspect American poultry producers, but the United States warned the "protectionist" row could obstruct Moscow's bid to join the World Trade Organisation.

US ambassador to Russia, Alexander Vershbow, and Russia's chief veterinary officer Mikhail Kravchuk signed a protocol to lift the poultry ban by April 10 if the United States complied with 13 inspection and certification demands.

But Vershbow signalled continuing US scepticism that Russia had imposed the chicken ban, which he

called "the number one problem in US-Russian relations over the last month", for reasons of consumer safety.

"This dispute has already caused some harm to our bilateral economic relationship that's undeniable. It will also inevitably complicate Russia's accession to the WTO," Vershbow said.

"We believe that many of the issues that have been discussed with our Russian partners, while serious, have been blown out of proportion by the Russian side," Vershbow told a press conference here.

"We have been convinced for some time that there has been a protectionist agenda behind this poultry ban," he added.

## HP holds seminar on Internet infrastructure

Hewlett-Packard Company (HP) has shared its vision and strategy with the customers at a seminar titled "Always on Internet Infrastructure" at the Bangladesh-China Friendship Conference Center recently, says a press release.

The seminar focused on providing the HP customers in Bangladesh a useful insight into the new series of servers and storage technologies on face of the rising demand to consolidate businesses running on different platforms.

Kok-Leong Chong, Country Manager of HP for Bangladesh and Brunei, while explaining HP Bangladesh Vision, told the audience that HP has always been committed to playing a proactive role in partnering with customers.



Photo shows a HP seminar on Internet infrastructure held in the city recently.

## Nepal's tourist arrivals drop on Maoist insurgency

AFP, Kathmandu

Tourist arrivals in Nepal dropped 47 per cent in January and February 2002 compared with the same period last year as a Maoist insurgency continued to scare off visitors, officials said Sunday.

Nepal saw 30,319 visitors in the first two months of the year, against 56,719 in January and February 2001, according to official statistics.

Tourism, the chief earner of foreign currency in the Himalayan kingdom, began slipping in June, when 10 members of the royal family were slain by the drunken crown prince.

The tourist trade has also been

hit hard by a new ferocity in the rebellion by the Maoists, who broke a four-month ceasefire in late November.

"Tourism has without doubt been affected all over the world, but internal insurgency and terrorism have caused a drop in visitors from abroad and India," said Tek Bahadur Dangi, marketing director of the Nepal Tourism Board.

Dangi said a five-day general strike beginning Tuesday called by the Maoists was expected to send further negative signals to the outside world about Nepal's political stability.

"The Nepalese government, however, has made extensive

preparations for security and to facilitate things for Western or Indian visitors during and after the general strike," Dangi said.

Maoist leader Baburam Bhattarai recently warned visitors not to go into battleground areas, but said the rebels would not target tourists.

Tourism employs some 250,000 people directly in Nepal and another one million indirectly.

The sinking fortunes of the tourist industry have prompted the government to open up 103 fresh Himalayan peaks to trekkers and mountaineers and to waive requirements that all expeditions hire liaison officers.

## Jute Spinners declares 10pc dividend

The Jute Spinners Limited has declared a 10 per cent dividend for the year 2000-2001, says a press release.

The dividend was declared at the 22nd annual general meeting of the company held at its Head Office in the city on Saturday.

Muhammad Shams-ul Haque, Chairman and Managing Director of the company, presided over the meeting. Director Muhammad Shams-ul Huda, Muhammad Shams-uz Zoha, Executive Director Faizur Rahman Chaudhury, and Company Secretary Bijoy Krishna Saha were also present.



Mohammad Shams-ul Haque, Chairman and Managing Director of Jute Spinners Ltd, speaks at the 22nd AGM of the company in the city on Saturday.

## 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
51.8469	51.9338	EUR	49.3155	49.1321	49.0555
84.3409	84.3829	GBP	81.1358	80.8693	80.8147
32.0713	32.0958	AUD	29.9094	29.8169	29.7368
0.4435	0.4437	JPY	0.4288	0.4286	0.4276
35.0418	35.0663	CHF	33.8731	33.7785	33.6941
5.8958	5.7009	SEK	5.4891	5.4715	5.4555
36.8889	36.9134	CAD	35.7735	35.6799	35.5957
7.5152	7.5155	HKD	7.3549	7.3372	7.3198
31.919	31.9400	SGD	31.0252	30.9814	30.9452
16.0710	16.0886	AED	15.4925	15.4706	15.4521
15.7369	15.7553	SAR	15.1901	15.1534	15.1352

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Nor Kroner	NZ Dollar	AUP
48.78	60.025	95.6	43.47	8.8501	0.4409	0.5333

The local interbank foreign exchange market was subdued on Sunday. Demand for dollar was sluggish. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and call rate ranged between 8 and 9 per cent.

The Bangladesh Treasury Bill auction was held on Sunday. The international markets were closed for the weekend.

All new York closing on Friday, euro traded at 0.8713/18 against dollar, pound sterling at 1.4254/64 and yen traded at 132.74/82 against US dollar.

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PHOTO: AL-BARAKA BANK

The 47th meeting of the Board of Directors of Al Baraka Bank Bangladesh Limited was held in the city on Saturday. Masum A Chowdhury, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the bank, presided over the meeting.



PHOTO: PUBALI BANK

Khondkar Ibrahim Khaled, Managing Director of Pubali Bank Limited, inaugurates expansion of the bank's Sonargaon Hotel branch on Thursday. Among others, Deputy Managing Director Amsaruddin Ahmed, General Manager Kashim Uddin Ahmed, Regional Manager and Deputy General Manager AKM Kamal Uddin Chowdhury, Branch Manager Ehteshamul Haque Chowdhury and Resident Manager of Sonargaon Hotel Atik Rahman were present.

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 31.3.2002

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/1	Al Faihaa	R.S/M.S	Mumb	Mutual	16/3	4/4	293
J/2	Clover Star(Liner)	Gl	Sing	Prog	25/3	2/4	2410
J/3	Mana	Gl.(St.Bil)	Yang	RSA	30/3	2/4	725
J/5	BanglarGourab	Gl.(S.Ash)	Pipa	BSC	28/3	5/4	211
J/6	Maria-K	C.Clink	Kohst	SSA	19/3	3/4	801
J/7	Weddel sea	C.Clink	Cla	OLM	27/3	6/4	2140
J/8	Multipurpose-3	Canola	Sing	USL	18/3	31/3	642
J/11	Boxer Capt Cook	Cont	P.Kel	PSSL	27/3	31/3	282/49
J/12	Kuo Hsiung	Cont	Sing	QCQL	29/3	1/4	310/33
J/13	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	27/3	31/3	378/54
CCT/1	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	29/3	3/4	102/19
CCT/2	Banga Biraj	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	27/3	31/3	144/33
CCT/3	Xpress Resolve	Cont	Sing	RSL	29/3	2/4	137/15
RM/14	BanglarMamata	Idle	Viza	BSC	13/2	10/4	
CJ	Africa	C.Clink	Sing	SSA	30/3	5/4	
GSJ	Banglar Kallol	Idle	B.Abb	BSC	10/3	6/4	
TSP	Armour-1	CDSO	Kaki	AMBL	23/3	1/4	
RM/6	Duke	HSD	Sing	ECSL	27/3	1/4	
RM/8	Belicia	C.Pol	Dumai	Seacom	29/3	1/4	
RM/9	Banglar Kakoli	Repair	Chinmy	BSC	24/2	2/4	
RM/10	AA Venture	Repair	Col	Cla	9/3	3/4	

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Name of cargo	Loading
Ocean Juliet	31/3	Sing	Arafeen	-	-
Barge: Wakaei Manu-8	31/3	Sing	Arafeen	Project works	-
Eco Challenge	31/3	Sing	USL	Gl (D. Peas)	-
Chin Shwe Haw	31/3	-	Total	Rice(P)	-
Mergui	1/4	Yang	Total	Rice(P)	-
Banga Birol (cont) 20/3	1/4	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Konlink (cont) 23/3	1/4	-	Nol	Cont	Sing
Qc Lark (cont) 23/3	31/3	P.Kel	QCQL	Cont	P.Kel
Chahaya Star	2/4	Yang	Uniship	Gl(Log)	-
Orient Freedom (cont) 23/3	1/4	-	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Kengtung (Liner)	4/4	Yang	Everett	Gl(ST.C)	-
Ocean Breeze	2/4	-	CT	Gl(ST.C)	-
Oriental Queen	2/4	Jaka	SSA	C.Clink	-
Flores Sea	2/4	Shang	Rkship	Scraping	-
Banga Barta (cont) 27/3	3/4	CBO	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Sinhai (cont) 17/3	3/4	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Mardios (cont) 21/3	3/4	P.Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik (cont) 27/3	3/4	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Qc Teal (cont) 24/3	4/4	P.Kel	QCQL	Cont	-
Kota Naga (cont) 24/3	4/4	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Ballic Leader (Roro/24) 20/3	4/4	Sing	JF	Vehi	-
Pinya	5/4	Yang	Bnship	Rice(P)	-
Tug Hua an	6/4	Sing	OWSL	-	-
Sub: Barge: Zhong Ren-3	6/4	Sing	OWSL	-	-
Peak (cont) 21/3	7/4	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Qc Dignity (cont) 27/3	7/4	P.Kel	QCQL	Cont	Sing
Spring Ocean (Liner)	7/4	-	Everett	Gl(ST.C)	-
Jaami (cont) 30/3	7/4	-	Evebest	Cont	Col
Qc Pintal (cont) 27/3	8/4	P.Kel	QCQL	Cont	Sing
Triumph Mumbai	10/4	Yang	RML	Gl(P.Equip)	-
Qc Honour (cont) 30/3	10/4	P.Kel	QCQL	Cont	Sing
Achiever (cont) 28/3	10/4	P.Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Berjaya(cont) 30/3	11/4	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Min Jiang (Liner)	13/4	-	Bdship	Gl	-

### Tanker due:

Vincita	1/4	-	Seacom	CDSO
Eirini	1/4	Jabe	Litmond	Crude Oil

Name of vessels Cargo Last Port call Local agent Date of arrival

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Dea Captain	-	-	Arafeen	R/A(28/1)
Orient Explorer	-	-	Arafeen	R/A(27/3)

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

## STOCK