

# US shrimpers file trade complaint against six countries

REUTERS, Washington

Shrimpers in the southern United States Wednesday asked the Bush administration to slap duties on shrimp shipments from China, Vietnam, Ecuador, Brazil, India and Thailand to stem cheap imports of the shellfish.

The shrimpers sent petitions to the Department of Commerce and the US International Trade Commission asking for that conditions of fair trade to be restored by imposing anti-dumping duties on the shrimp imports from the six countries.

Preliminary duties could be imposed on shrimp imports in the spring depending on rulings from the two agencies.

"The US shrimp industry is in

dire straits due to unfair imports," said Deborah Regan, spokeswoman for the Southern Shrimp Alliance.

The industry group, representing shrimpers in Florida, Alabama, Georgia, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina and Texas, complain that several countries have flooded the US market with pond-raised shrimp at below-market prices.

Southern states are important to the Bush administration as President George W Bush seeks reelection in 2004.

Fewer boats are going out to sea, jobs have been lost and communities in the South have been devastated, Regan said.

She also said the average price of a shrimp entree at restaurants

has been on the rise showing that the cost of cheaper imports is not being passed on to consumers.

Industry estimates put total imports at \$5 billion to \$6 billion annually in the United States. Shrimp became the top-selling seafood in the United States last year, overtaking tuna, the longtime king.

The Mexican shrimp industry is also supporting the US anti-dumping complaints.

The dumping margins outlined in the petitions range from 30 per cent to over 200 per cent, Regan said.

US shrimp distributors, wholesalers and restaurants, are gearing up to fend off any duties.

## Vietnam rejects US accusations

REUTERS, Hanoi

Vietnam shrimp exporters Thursday disputed accusations of dumping from US producers seeking import tariffs on the shellfish.

"We do not dump," industry executive Le Minh Quang told Reuters. "If there is no profit, we will all be bankrupt."

US shrimpers on Wednesday asked the Bush administration to slap anti-dumping duties of up to 200 percent on shrimp shipments from China, Vietnam, Ecuador, Brazil, India and Thailand to stem cheap imports of the shellfish.

Most Vietnamese producers kept their costs down by using modern technology, large-scale production and inexpensive labour, said Quang, director of key shrimp exporter Minh Phu Co in Vietnam's number-one shrimp-farming province, Ca Mau.

"The suit is wrong," said Nguyen Van Ba, a shrimp-farm owner in another key shrimp-farming region, Soc Trang. "If we lose it will be a big blow to my farm."



PHOTO: GLOBAL INSURANCE LTD

SM Abdul Mannan, chairman of Global Insurance Ltd, presides over the 3rd annual general meeting of the company held in Dhaka recently.



PHOTO: ACI LIMITED

M Anis Ud Dowla, chairman and managing director of ACI Limited, speaks at the opening of the marketing and sales conference 2004 of Health Care Division of ACI Pharmaceuticals in Dhaka. Arif Dowla, deputy managing director, and M Mohibuz Zaman, chief operating officer, were also present.



PHOTO: GP

Mehboob Chowdhury, director, Sales and Marketing of GrameenPhone (GP) Limited, speaks at the suppliers' meet organised by the Sales and Marketing Division of GP recently.



PHOTO: NILOY CEMENT INDUSTRIES

Humayun K Khandaker, vice-chairman of Niloy Cement Industries Limited, presides over the company's 8th annual general meeting held at Banirgati in Jessore recently. The company has declared a 5 per cent cash dividend for the shareholders.



PHOTO: GENERAL PHARMACEUTICALS

General Pharmaceuticals Limited Managing Director Momenul Haq presides over the company's Annual Sales Conference 2003 and prize giving ceremony held in Dhaka yesterday. Among others, Director of the company Sarah Momen and Director Marketing Mir Zaki Azam Chowdhury are also seen in the picture.

## Kenya's tea production up

REUTERS, Nairobi

Kenyan tea production rose by 7.29 per cent in November 2003 against the same month a year ago boosted by favourable weather and the construction of additional tea factories, the Tea Board of Kenya (TBK) said Wednesday.

Kenya produced 27,661,152 kgs in November 2003 against 25,782,385 kgs during the same month of 2002.

"The steady increase in tea production in the last four months could partly be attributed to favourable weather, especially enough and well-distributed rainfall in all growing areas," a statement by the board said.

"At the same time, five manufacturing factories have been commissioned over the last 12 months, stemming green leaf wastage that is characteristic of flush periods."

Kenya's January-November production reached 260.7 million kgs this year compared to 257.2 million kgs in the same period last year, the board said.

# SHIPPING

## Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 01/01/2004.

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import	disch.
J/1	Wang Jae San	Sugar(P)	Kaki	Able	7/12	4/1	226	
J/2	Taraman Bibi	Rice(P)	P.Band	Nishat	16/12	3/1	928	
J/3	Rise	Sugar(P)	Viza	Sstl	23/10	2/1	--	
J/4	Xiang Jiang (Liner)	GI	Xing	Bdship	30/12	6/1	2283	
J/5	Ocean Pride	GI(Log)	Yang	Psal	14/12	4/1	983	
J/6	Attar	GI	Mumb	Rsa	29/12	2/1	5623	
J/7	Sonali	E/L	Mong	Owsl	30/12	3/1	--	
J/8	QC Star	Cont	P.Kel	Qcsl	30/12	12/1	378	
J/10	Kota Singa	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	29/12	2/1	350	
J/11	Dongtai Fortune	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	28/12	2/1	220	
Col/1	Pac Makassar	Cont	Sing	Psal	30/12	3/1	240	
Col/2	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	30/12	3/1	127	
Col/3	Banglar Moni	Cont	Sing	Bsc	30/12	4/1	100	
RM/14	Delos	Fmp & Gtsp	Sing	Tosl	3/12	5/1	--	
RM/15	Banglar Shikha	Repair	--	Bsc	RA	3/1	--	
Ccj	George	Clink	Tarj	Bsl	29/12	4/1	--	
Gsj	C. Brave	Whit(G)	Aust	Ssst	27/12	2/1	--	

Vessels due at outer anchorage - Date: 01/01/2004

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load-port
Xpreee Manaslu	1/1/2004	P.Kel	Rel	Cont	Sing
QC Honour	1/1/2004	P.Kel	Qcsl	Cont	L/Sing
Great Harmony	1/1/2004	Qinz	Unique	Tsp(P)	Fert
South Glory	1/1	Xang	Seacoast	R. Phos	
Tug Britoil-45	1/1	Indo	Vega	Santini-II & N.Budhi	
N Budhi	1/1	Indo	Vega	Ballast	Scraping
Santini-II	1/1	Indo	Vega	Ballast	Scraping
Barrier	2/1	Col	Everbest	Cont	Col
Agios Fanouris	2/1	Kaki	Pol	Clink	S. Alam
Banglar Mookh	2/1	Sing	Pml	Tsp(Fert)	
Banga Brol	2/1	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	Sing/Ptp/Pk
Htone Ywa	2/1	Yang	Total	Rice & Black Maple	
Banga Borak	3/1	P.Kel	Bdship	Cont	P.Kel/Sing
Kaishun	3/1	Sing	Everett	Vehi	19 Pkgs
Orient Excellence	3/1	P.Kel	Psal	Cont	Sing
Calje	5/1	--	Ancl	864 GI	
Banga Bortl	5/1	--	Bdship	Cont	Ptp/Sing
QC Dignity	5/1	P.Kel	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Beluga Independence	6/1	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Gaz Master	2/1/4	Viza	Mbl	Ammonia(K/A)
Salamat-2	2/1/2004	B.Abb	Otm	Bitumen(RM/3)
Spring Glory	2/1	Dunai	Bma	Cpo
Bunga Semarak	2/1	Binton	Rainbow	Cpo
Siam Supha	3/1	P.Kel	Gpsl	Cpo(RM/4)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:

NIL

Vessels not ready

Eastern Star	Tsp(P)	Chin	Unique	26/12
Dolly	Sugar(P)	Braz	Mutual	28/12
Temasek	SkoUp-1	Ajub	Eosl	30/12
Inwa	Rice/Y.Ma	Yang	Total	1/1

Vessels awaiting employment/instruction:

Banglar Jyoti	--	--	Bsc	R/A(23/12)
Banga Biraj	--	--	Bdship	R/A(29/12)
Atlantic Breeze	--	--	Mutual	R/A(30/12)

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

# STOCK