

Europeans slam S Korea as top counterfeit exporter, consumer

AFP, Seoul

European businessmen blasted South Korea Wednesday as one of the world's largest counterfeit exporting and consuming countries with Internet sites emerging as a major distribution channel.

South Korea's intellectual property rights (IPR) infringement is "far worse" than that in other advanced countries, said IPR committee head Peter Thewlis of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in Korea (EUCCK).

"Korea is still recognized as one of the largest counterfeit exporting and consuming countries in the world," he said.

South Korean counterfeit goods

are "most popular and highest priced" in Shanghai, China, due to their elaborate quality, he said.

He said any foreigner can easily find copycat and counterfeit goods in downtown Seoul, with South Korean products representing the largest portion of all counterfeit goods seized by Japan last year.

"Especially, the Internet sites have recently become the major distribution channel for counterfeit criminals and are nowadays inundated with counterfeit goods and illegal products every day," he said.

The IPR committee said in a report that because of high manufacturing costs, many counterfeit facilities have moved from South

Korea to China and other neighboring countries.

Counterfeit goods manufactured overseas are imported back into South Korea, it said.

The committee said the protection of intellectual property rights remains a major concern for many European companies doing business here.

"The lack of adequate (IPR) protection is often cited by foreign investors as one of the major causes for refraining from making investments in Korea," it said.

South Korea's legal framework had shown considerable progress compared with international standards.

"However, production, mar-

keting and exports of counterfeit goods are still not deterred effectively in the ordinary market place because enforcement actions by the Korean authorities lack apparent continuous effort," the committee said.

It complained a growing number of websites in South Korea are misappropriating the intellectual rights of well-known foreign brands and companies.

"As the e-business grows exponentially, an increasing number of Internet commercial vendors are often misappropriating the registered trade marks and decorative visuals."



PHOTO: PRIME BANK

Officials of Prime Bank Limited are seen at a daylong workshop on retail credit products organised by the bank in Dhaka recently. Prime Bank Deputy Managing Director Nasiruddin Ahmed inaugurated the workshop.

CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (March 3, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buy		
			TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
59.2500	59.3000	USD	58.3550	58.1836	58.1140
72.8834	72.9449	EUR	70.3586	70.1520	70.0680
109.4999	109.5923	GBP	106.2411	105.9291	105.8023
45.5396	45.5780	AUD	43.4220	43.2944	43.2426
0.5450	0.5455	JPY	0.5258	0.5243	0.5236
45.9944	46.0332	CHF	44.4881	44.3574	44.3043
7.8027	7.8093	SEK	7.2885	7.2471	7.2385
44.3521	44.3896	CAD	42.9270	42.8009	42.7497
7.6148	7.6212	HKD	7.4853	7.4634	7.4544
34.8325	34.8618	SGD	34.0064	33.9065	33.8659
16.2632	16.2769	AED	15.7593	15.7130	15.6942
15.9266	15.9400	SAR	15.4378	15.3925	15.3741
10.0946	10.1031	DKK	9.1688	9.1419	9.1310

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringit
45.24	57.3	97.65	39.420	7.1510	0.6733	3.80

Local Interbank FX Trading

Local interbank market was active on Wednesday. Demand for dollar continued to remain very high due to import payments and profit remittances. Dollar continued to get stronger against Bangladeshi taka due to the high demand.

Local Money Market

Money market was active. Call money rate remained almost unchanged and ranged between 2.50 and 3.00 per cent.

International Market

The dollar hit multi-month highs against major currencies on Wednesday, maintaining its recent bull run on growing optimism about a pick-up in the long dormant US jobs market. While expectations for a strong reading in US

payroll date due on Friday boosted the greenback, traders also said much of the buying was technically short-covering, after the euro fell below key resistance levels versus the dollar on Tuesday. US Institute of Supply Management report that employment level jumped in US helped the US dollar. The dollar has now reclaimed more than six percent from last month's record lows against the euro and 5 per cent from 3-1/2 year troughs versus the yen. The euro briefly fell as low as a three-month trough of \$1.2147. Against the yen, the dollar was at 110.15 yen. The British pound and Australian dollar also tumbled against the US dollar. At 1515 hours on Tuesday, euro was at 1.2178/82, GBP was at 1.8356/60, yen was at 110.14/19 against US dollar.

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PHOTO: PBT

Hiroshi Inoue, managing director of Japan Housing Co Ltd, and Chris Maloy, chief executive officer of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Limited (PBT), the owning company of CityCell phone, exchange documents after signing an agreement in Dhaka recently. Under the deal, Japan Housing has become a corporate client of CityCell.



PHOTO: INTERSPEED

Standard Chartered Bank senior officials pose for a photograph with the participants of a workshop on 'L/C Advising & Transfer: UCP Rules and Regulatory Issues' organised by the bank. Kh Khalidur Rahman, deputy general manager, Foreign Exchange Policy Department of Bangladesh Bank, conducted the workshop.

McDonald's menu to go on diet in 2005

AP, Chicago

Say goodbye to those super-sized fries -- McDonald's is slimming down its menu.

The hamburger giant has started phasing out its trademark Superize fries and drinks in its US restaurants as part of an effort to simplify its menu and give customers choices that support a balanced lifestyle, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

By the end of 2004, super size will no longer be available at the nation's 13,000-plus McDonald's outlets except in certain promotions, McDonald's spokesman Walt Riker said.

The move comes as the world's largest restaurant company, and fast-food chains in general, are under growing public pressure to give consumers healthier food options in a nation that has suddenly become aware of its bulging waistline and the health dangers that come with it.

McDonald's added entree salads last year and has been moving to provide more fruit, vegetable and yogurt options with its Happy Meals. But the Oak Brook, Ill.-based company remains a magnet for public concerns -- and legal actions -- when it comes to obesity.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 3/03/2004

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/2	Kamnik	GI	Sing	ANCL	3/5	6/3	--
J/5	Rise	Idle	Viza	SSTL	23/10	5/3	2074
J/7	Xiang Jiang	GI	Xing	Bdship	27/2	4/3	56
J/8	Presto	Def	Yang	Rkship	29/2	4/3	3150
J/10	Asean Express	Slag	P.Kel	QCSL	25/2	5/3	--
J/11	Orient Excellence	Cont	P. Kel	PSSL	1/3	--	204
J/12	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(Bd)	2/3	5/3	542
J/13	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Baridhi	1/3	4/3	2900
CCT/1	New Plesing	Cont	P. Kel	Seaborn	3/3	6/3	4300
RM/3	Iran Bahonar	CDSO	Maur	Rainbow	27/2	7/3	9560
RM/4	Sea Horse-1	Cpol	Kunt	MTCL	3/3	5/3	13200
RM/5	Ocean Porpoise	MS	Sing	MSTPL	2/3	6/3	--
DOJ	Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil	K. Dia	BSC	R/A	2/3	--
DD	Banglar Mamata	Repair	Yang	BSC	6/2	5/3	--

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	date of arrival	L. port	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Qc Honour(Cont)22/2	3/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/P/Kel
B. Borat(Cont)18/2	3/3	Sing	Bdship	Cont	L/P/Pk/Sing
E. Etema(Roro)24/22/2	3/3	Sing	Everett	Vehi	8 Pkgs
Prosperous Ocean	4/3	Tuba	ANCL	C.Clink	Shah
O. Freedom(Cont)22/2	4/3	PKI	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
Layar Sentosa	4/3	Chin	Unicom	TSP	--
Brave Royal	4/4	Kohsi	ARL	C.Clink	Royal
Kota Singa(Cont)23/2	4/3	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	L/Col
Xpress Resolve(Cont)24/2	5/3	Cbo	Everbest	Cont	L/Col
Htone Twa	5/3	Yangon	Total	Black Maple	--
Qc Pintail(Cont)25/2	5/3	Col	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
B. Moni(Cont)24/2	5/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
B. Shikha(Cont)28/2	6/3	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
D. Fortune(Cont)28/2	6/3	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	L/Sing
Marine Jeju(Liner)	6/3	--	Everett	--	--
Banga Barta	6/3	--	Baridhi	GI	6/5
B. Bijoy(Cont)25/2	7/3	--	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Marios(Cont)25/2	7/3	P.Kel	RSL	Cont	L/Sing
Dawell(Liner)	7/3	Yangon	Everett	GI(SL)	--
B. Bodor(Cont)26/2	7/3	--	Bdship	Cont	L/Pk/Pip
Qc Dignity(Cont)26/2	8/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
Sithwel(Liner)	8/3	Yangon	Everett	GI(SL)	--
Rio Negro(Cont)29/2	9/3	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/P.Kel
Budi Aman(Cont)17/2	9/3	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	L/Sing
O. Enterprise(Cont)28/2	9/3	--	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
Pac Makassar(Cont)28/2	9/3	Hal	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing

Tanker due

Jackson	3/3	Bela	USL	CPO	RM/3/4
Ventura	3/3	Sant	MBA	CDSO	RM/3/4/2000w/L
AL. Kuwaitiah	4/3	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/Sko	DOJ
Bunga Siantan	4/3	Kaki	MTCL	CPO	RM/8/3
Suvarna Swarajya	7/3	--	SSSL	HSD	RM/

Vessels not ready:

Meros Komari	Sugar(P)	Kaki	Able	2/3
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Vessels awaiting instruction

Banga Biraj	--	--	Bdship	R/A
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Vessels not entering:

Excellent	C. Clink	Sing	ANCL	27/2
Eastern Star	Fert(Tsp)	Sing	Unique	26/2
Jimakos-T	Sugar(P)	Bang	Litmond	29/2
Santia Barbara	C.Clink	Kant	Uniship	1/3
Power	C.Clink	Indo	Move	1/3
Ks Glory	C.Clink	Kant	ANCL	2/3
Gulf Discovery	Scraping	Vae	Amz	2/3
Vivek	Scraping	P.Band	ASA	1/3
Corali	Scraping	Lagos	Rsship	1/3
Kriti Sea	Scraping	Sing	Rsship	27/2
Accord	--	Sing	Viking	5/4

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

STOCK