

## Biggest US union demands trade sanctions against China

AFP, Washington

The largest US workers' union filed an unprecedented petition with the government Tuesday demanding trade sanctions against China for alleged rampant violation of workers rights.

"We're taking this action because the Chinese government's persistent pattern of violating international standards of workers' rights is inflicting great hardship on working families in both our countries," said John Sweeney, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organisation (AFL-CIO).

He charged that workers in China were being forced to work for wages up to 86 percent below what they should be, with little health and safety protection and no right to join or form free trade unions.

In the United States, he said, up to 1.3 million workers have seen their jobs shipped to China. "Their lives have been wrecked because of the unfair cost advantage caused by these violations," Sweeney told a press conference.

Representing 13 million workers, the AFL-CIO filed the petition under a US law which authorises President George W. Bush to take action against countries that impose "burdens" on US com-

merce by engaging in "unreasonable trade practices."

In filing the 103-page petition at the US Trade Representative's (USTR's) office, Sweeney gave the Bush administration 45 days under Section 301 of the Trade Act to act on the petition.

The AFL-CIO urged Bush to impose "trade remedies" commensurate with the cost advantage gained by China's denial of workers' rights, and to negotiate a binding agreement with Beijing to comply with internationally recognised workers' rights.

"This is an historic moment because it's the first time the worker-rights provisions of the

Trade Act of 1974 have ever been used as a basis for a 301 filing," he said.

Until now, only US companies have used the law, and then only against unfair commercial practices.

The AFL-CIO is also part of a trade coalition planning to file another petition under the same powerful law over the undervaluation of China's yuan currency.

USTR spokesman Richard Mills declined to comment specifically on Monday's petition but stressed that it was committed to "aggressively enforcing our trade laws to ensure that US companies can compete on a level playing field."



PHOTO: COMMUNICARE EVENTS

**Bangladesh Furniture Industries Owners' Association (BFIOA) Chairman KM Aktaruzzaman and Communicare Events Managing Partner Mehmed Hassan shake hands after signing an agreement in Dhaka on Monday. Under the deal, Communicare Events will publish a directory on furniture industry and organise the first national furniture fair in Dhaka in August this year.**



PHOTO: JANATA BANK

**Janata Bank organised Branch Managers' Conference 2004 of Dhaka Zone-C of the bank at its regional office recently. General Manager of Divisional Office, Dhaka, Janata Bank Md Golam Sarwar, DGM of Dhaka Zone-C Mahmud Hasan and DGM Dhaka Zone-D Md Nazrul Islam were present.**



PHOTO: IDLC

**Industrial Development Leasing Company (IDLC) CEO and Managing Director Anis A Khan and Central Depository Bangladesh Limited (CDBL) Managing Director and CEO MH Samad exchange documents after signing an agreement for scripless settlement of shares trading under central depository system in Dhaka yesterday.**



PHOTO: INTERSPEED

**Uttam Kumar Saha, director of SP Fashions Limited, the first successful applicant of Standard Chartered Bank's business financial services, receives the banking arrangement letter from M Sajidur Rahman, head of Consumer Banking, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, at a function held in Dhaka recently. Subroto Som, regional head of Consumer Banking, Middle East & South Asia, and Masihul Haque Chowdhury, head of Secured, Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, were also present.**

## World cellphone market to grow 10pc this year: Siemens

AFP, Hanover, Germany

The German electronics giant Siemens expects the global market for mobile phones to grow by 10 percent this year, the head of Siemens' mobile phone division Rudi Lamprecht said Wednesday.

"Our aim is to continue to grow faster than the market," Lamprecht told a news conference at the CeBIT computer trade fair here.

In order to achieve that goal, Siemens was counting on new products, with the group planning to launch 30 models this year, Lamprecht said.

Quizzed about new handsets built to use third-generation mobile phone technology (Universal Mobile Telecommunications System or UMTS), the Siemens board member said he was "very confident" that here would "a number of handsets" on the market "at the end of this year and the beginning of next year."

And by 2010, "all phones sold will use UMTS technology," he predicted.

Lamprecht nevertheless played down the importance of such technology, which was simply "a means for making applications possible".

## CURRENCY

Following is Wednesday's (March 17, 2004) forex rate by Standard Chartered Bank

TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
59.3000	59.3500	USD	58.4050	58.2334	58.1637
73.5320	73.5940	EUR	70.9913	70.7828	70.6980
108.4953	108.5868	GBP	105.4269	105.1172	104.9914
44.7595	44.7974	AUD	42.6532	42.5279	42.4770
0.5528	0.5533	JPY	0.5332	0.5316	0.5310
46.8404	46.8799	CHF	45.3033	45.1702	45.1162
7.8778	7.8844	SEK	7.2801	7.2588	7.2501
44.9447	44.9826	CAD	43.5079	43.3801	43.3282
7.6182	7.6246	HKD	7.4888	7.4666	7.4578
34.9976	35.0271	SGD	34.1670	34.0666	34.0258
16.2765	16.2902	AED	15.7732	15.7269	15.7080
15.9400	15.9534	SAR	15.4511	15.4057	15.3872
10.1869	10.1955	DKK	9.2469	9.2197	9.2087
201.8380	202.0082	KWD	191.0533	190.4921	190.2641

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
45.22	57.375	97.6	39.415	6.8880	0.7036	3.80

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 17/03/2004.

Berth no.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Pathein	Wheat (p)	Kaki	GPSL	9/3	20/03	678
J/2	Banglar Doot	Gi (tr.c)	Pusan	Prog	16/3	19/3	2303-
J/3	Sitwe (liner)	Gi (st.c)	Hald	Everett	16/3	18/3	331
J/4	Ocean Pride	Gi	Yang	PSAL	12/3	28/3	1405
J/5	Banga Barla	Gi (s. ash)	Mumb	Baridhi	15/3	20/3	983
J/6	Meris Kirinda	Wheat (p)	Tuti	Able	12/3	20/3	612
J/9	Orient Excellence	Cont	Sing	PSSL	15/3	18/3	252
J/10	Kota Naga	Cont	Sing	PJ (bd)	14/3	18/3	44
J/12	Qc Star	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	14/3	17/3	--
CCT/1	New Blessing	Cont	P. Kel	Seabome	16/3	19/3	226
CCT/2	Banga Bonik	Cont	Col	Bdship	14/3	18/3	60

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Qc Honour	18/3	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Borat	18/3	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Ptp/pk/sing
Orient Freedom	18/3	P. Kel	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Singa	18/3	Sing	PJ (bd)	Cont	Mong
Hpaan	19/3	Yang	MTA	Gi (log)	
Fu Shen	19/3	Yang	Mutual	Gi (log)	
Rachmanvel-iii	18/3	Indo	Vega	Demolition	
Tanjung Pakar	18/3	Indo	Vega	Demolition	
Nostos	18/3	Taiw	Rship	Demolition	
Marios	19/3	P. Kel	RSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve	19/3	Col	Everbest	Cont	Col
Dea Captain	19/3	--	BSA	Tug Supply Boat	
Sinar Surya	20/3	Indo	Vega	Demolition	
Qc Dignity	21/3	P. Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
An Long Jiang	20/3	Hanjin	Bdship	Gi	--

### Tanker due

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Siam Supha	17/3	Dumai	USL	CPO(RM/3/4)	
Al Sabiyah	20/3	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/RM	

### Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Amanat Shah	Rice/Wt	Viza	Cia	12/3	
Tank Oil	Cpo	Dumai	USL	14/3	
Maritime Chiangmai	Clink	Indo	BSL	15/3	
Banga Borti	Cont	--	--	Bdship	

### Vessels awaiting employment / Instruction

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Banga Brijai	--	--	Bdship	R/A (29/12)	
Salamat-1	--	--	Oim	R/A (13/3)	
Ventura	--	--	BMA	R/A (14/3)	
Banglar Jyoti	--	--	BSC	R/A (15/3)	
Banglar Shourabh	--	--	BSC	R/A (17/3)	

### Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Load port
Celje	Fert(f.m.p)	Sing	ANCL	10/3	
Blue Sea	Clink	Lumut	Move	13/3	
Bosowa Delapan	Clink	Kant	BSL	14/3	
Santa Barbara	Clink	Kant	Uniship	15/3	
Gulf Discovery	Scraping	Vae	Anz	2/3	
Adygeja	Scraping	Hald	Anz	16/3	
Titan Mercury	Scraping	Indo	Jh	17/3	

### Movement of vessels for: 18/03/2004

Out going	In coming	Shifting
J/3 Sitwe	J/13 Qc Honour	RM/3 Salamat-2
J/9 O. Excellence	RM/4 Tank Oil	RM/3 Siam Supha
J/10 K. Naga		
CCT/2 B. Bonik		

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

## STOCK