

## EU embroiled in taxing debate over 'fiscal dumping'

AFP, The Netherlands

European finance ministers clashed Saturday over Franco-German proposals to harmonise EU corporate taxes to prevent lower-cost member states grabbing too much of the investment pie.

Angry at what they see as "fiscal dumping" by EU countries that are attracting companies to relocate, the French and German governments are pushing for minimum tax bands throughout the bloc.

The European Commission has proposed to harmonise the basic rules for calculating company taxes

throughout the 25 member states.

But the Brussels executive, backed by Britain, Ireland and some new EU members in eastern Europe, strongly opposes any moves to do away with the right of individual countries to set their own levels of tax.

German Finance Minister Hans Eichel stayed on the offensive as the issue was discussed at an EU meeting at this Dutch resort on the North Sea coast.

"I'm very much in favour of a common tax base. This will not disadvantage tax competition as that competition is down to tax rates," he told reporters.

"It's nonsense to have a debate about harmonisation of tax rates while we do not have a common tax base," Eichel said.

French Finance Minister Nicolas Sarkozy has gone further by arguing that if the new member states are rich enough to keep taxes low, then they should not seek billions of euros in structural aid funds from the older members.

That has provoked a furious response from new members including Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic and Slovakia, which are keen to emulate Ireland's economic transformation through

the use of EU funds.

Sarkozy, however, said it was inevitable that the tax base would have to be made uniform as more pan-European companies emerge.

"You cannot compare apples with oranges," he said at the Scheveningen talks.

But on a more conciliatory note, the French minister said he would soon write to his 24 colleagues and visit several EU capitals to explain his ideas more clearly.

Tax questions are among the most sensitive in the EU as they go to the heart of debate about national sovereignty.



PHOTO: AGRANI BANK

Agrani Bank Deputy Managing Director KM Asaduzzaman and The Peoples Development Services Corporation Limited (PDSC) Managing Director Abdur Rahman exchange documents after signing an agreement on Wednesday in Dhaka. Under the deal, PDSC, a private organisation, will recover default loans of Agrani Bank. Among others, PDSC Chairman Abdul Wadud Master was present at the signing ceremony.



PHOTO: A POSITIVE AD LTD

Director, managing director and other officials of BRAC Bank Limited pose for photographs with zonal officers of Small and Medium Enterprise (SME) division at a 'regional sales conference' organised by the bank in Dhaka recently.

## US investors to invest over \$3b in South Korea

REUTERS, Seoul

US investors, including real estate developer Donald Trump and other hotel and casino operators, will visit South Korea this week to sign preliminary deals to build hotels and commercial buildings worth more than \$3 billion, South Korea's finance ministry said on Sunday.

South Korea -- which has offered investors tax breaks to develop tourism as part of a drive to shore up a sagging economy -- said the developments would be near its main international airport and in Kwangyang in the southwest of the country.

The US investors, led by contractor HRH Construction, would invest more than \$3 billion, the ministry said in a statement.

The group included real estate developer Trump Organisation, hotel firm Marriott International Inc. and Tishman Speyer Properties, it said.

The ministry said the companies would sign a memorandum of understanding on Friday covering the projects at Incheon -- the home of Seoul's international airport 35 kms (22 miles) west of the capital -- and in Kwangyang, a steel and port city in South Cholla province around 420 kms (260 miles) southwest of Seoul.

## CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (September 12, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell	Buy
TT/OD	BC
59.7500	59.8000
74.2812	74.3434
108.3387	108.4294
42.5360	42.5716
0.5521	0.5526
47.8843	47.9243
8.0397	8.0464
46.6578	46.6969
7.6700	7.6764
35.3948	35.4244
16.4004	16.4141
Currency	TT Clean
USD	58.5050
EUR	70.8613
GBP	104.2091
AUD	39.7775
JPY	0.5294
CHF	46.0742
SEK	7.4463
CAD	44.9140
HKD	7.4918
SGD	34.2917
AED	15.8002
OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
58.3332	58.2633
70.6531	70.5686
103.9030	103.7787
39.6607	39.6132
0.5278	0.5272
45.9389	45.8839
7.4244	7.4156
44.7821	44.7285
7.4698	7.4609
34.1909	34.1500
15.7538	15.7349

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner

Local interbank FX Trading International market was closed on Sunday due to weekend. Dollar eased across the board on Friday on back of decline in US PPI which reconfirms Greenpan's comment of gradual pace of tightening. August PPI fell 0.1 percent after a 0.1 percent increase in July. The median forecast was for a 0.1 percent rise. Core PPI, excluding food and energy prices, also dropped 0.1 percent, the first decline since February, after a 0.1 percent increase in July.

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### ReadyCash Raffle Draw Winners

The latest ReadyCash Raffle draw was held at ReadyCash Bangladesh office at Dhanmondi in Dhaka on Saturday, says a press release..

Prizes	Name of Winners	Card No
China Junction Chinese Free Lunch for Two	Dr. Motalib	5047980010031992
TOMBOY Chinese Free Lunch Package	Md. Billal Hossain	5047980010032005
Great Wall Free Lunch/Dinner for Two	Md. Nagor Miah	5047980010032006
Florence Foods Free Gift Box	M.A.H. Khan	5047980000054403
Everyday Everything FEDS free Gift Box	Md. Shahabuddin	5047980000054401
Pabna Cloth Store free Gift Box	M d . A n i s u z z a m a n	5047980000054396
Rainbow Chinese Free Lunch/Dinner for Two	Abu Hussain	5047980010032277

Winners can collect their prizes from the Executive, Promotion of ReadyCash, within 30 days of this news circulation by producing their ReadyCash card transaction vouchers. **ReadyCash encourages its cardholders to read The Daily Star and the Daily Prothom Alo on every Sunday or call our Customer Service at: 8123850, 8130497, and 8125294-7.**

## SHIPPING

### Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 12/9/2004

Berth No.	vessels	Name of Cargo call	L. port agent	Local arrival	Dt of arrival	Leaving/Import disch
J/5	Altair-ss	Wheat (p)	Kand	AMBL	4/9	17/9---
J/6	Amar	Wheat (p)	Siva	Mutual	29/8	17/9---
J/9	Oel Esteem	Cont Hald	PSSL	11/9	14/9	238
J/10	Orient Freedom	Cont Sing	PSSL	9/9	12/9	65
J/11	Orient Enterprise	Cont Hald	PSSL	8/9	--	--
J/12	Qc Honour	Cont Tanj	QCSL	10/9	12/9	266
J/13	Micronesia Heritage	Cont Col	Everbest	10/9	14/9	222
CC1/1	Kota Naga	Cont Sing	Pli (bd)	9/9	13/9	230
CC1/2	Banga Lanka	Cont Sing	Bdship	10/9	13/9	190
CC1/3	Banga Barta	Cont Sing	Bdship	10/9	13/9	258
GSJ	Orchid Bay	Wheat (g) Esper	Lams	10/9	17/9	--
RM/3	Seal	CPO Bela	Pol	11/9	13/9	--

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Sagaing (liner)	12/9	Chenn	Everett	GI(st.c)	--
Al Muztuba	13/9	Yang	Cla	Rice (p)	--
Startec	12/9	Indo	ASLL	C. Clink	Unique
Venus	12/9	Sante	Seaglor	Sugar (p)	--
Banga Borat	13/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Borak	13/9	P.kel	Bdship	Cont	PK/sing
Mawlamyine	13/9	Yang	GPSL	GI(s. Ash)	--
Petchburi	13/9	Sria	Rship	Scraping	--
Essa	13/9	Nakh	Rship	Scraping	--
Bumijaya	13/9	Kand	Total	Wheat (p)	--
Me Linh	16/9	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
New Blessing	14/9	P. Kel	Everbest	Cont	Sing
Chang Peng	14/9	Sing	Nyk	Vehi	--
Banga Bonik	14/9	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Revelation	14/9	Sing	IBSA	Drilling Equipment	--
Van Xuan	15/9	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Orient Excellence	15/9	Tanj	PSSL	Cont	Col
Qc Star	14/9	P. Kel	GESL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni	16/9	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing

### Tanker due

Agawam	18/9	Hald	Pol	CDSO(RM/3)
A' Pride	13/9	Sing	Rainbow	CDSO(RM/3/4/8)
Kirana Tritiya	14/9	Sing	CTPL	F. Oil (RM/4)

### Vessels at Kutubdia

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

### Outside port Limit

Dea Captain	--	---	IBSA	R/A (12/9)
Lombardia	Crude Oil	Jebel	OWSL	6/9
Banglar Shourabh	C. Oil	---	BSC	R/A

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready:	Cont	Sing	Pli (bd)	12/9
Kota Tampan	Cont	Sing	Pli (bd)	12/9
Qc Dignity	Cont	P. Kel	QCSL	12/9

### Vessels not ready

Salamat-1	Bitumen	Hald	Otm	3/9
New Accord	Fert (p)	Sing	BSL	10/9
Ocean Pride	Sugar (p)	Sing	Psau	11/9

### Vessels not entering

Pan Express	C. Clink	Krabi	Litmond	7/9
Namemcha	Gyp. Ston	Krabi	Move	10/9
Humboldt Cockent	Mop (p)	Niko	Litmond	10/9

## STOCK