

SANYO
FAMILY SIZE MICROWAVE OVEN
35.9 & 27.1 LITRE OVEN CAPACITY



Free Recipe Book

Transfin Trading Ltd.
Tel: 815306-9, 819625-9



HYUNDAI
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

BB treasury bills auctioned

The 92nd auction of the 90-day Treasury Bill, the 83rd auction of the 30-day and the 180-day Treasury Bills and the 57th auction of the one-year Treasury Bill were held yesterday, reports UNB.

Twenty-three bids for a total of Tk 155 crore of 30-day Bill, four bids for a total Tk 15.50 crore of 90-day Bill, one bid for Tk five crore of 180-day Bill and 45 bids for a total of Tk 310.50 crore of one-year bill were offered.

Of these, 13 bids for a total Tk 115 crore of 30-day Bill, 12 bids for a total of Tk 88 crore of one-year Bill were accepted. The bids offered for 90-day and 180-day Bill were not accepted.

The weighted average prices of the accepted bids against the 30-day and one-year Bills were Tk 99.30 and Tk 90.58 per Tk 100 respectively.

The corresponding yields are 8.50 per cent and 10.40 per cent per annum, said a Bangladesh Bank press release.

Nurul Matin Memorial Lecture today

The Nurul Matin Memorial Lecture Series on "Ethics in Banking" organised by the Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management will be held at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel today, says a press release.

President Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed will deliver the first lecture on it.

Prefatory remarks on the subject will be made by Shah AMS Kibria, Minister of Finance.

Lutfar Rahman Sarkar, Governor of Bangladesh Bank, will deliver the address of welcome.

AKN Ahmed, ex-governor of Bangladesh Bank, will explain the objectives of introducing the lecture series.

Eminent bankers, university teachers, researchers, intellectuals, distinguished citizens and representatives of foreign missions are invited to attend the function.

Due to unavoidable circumstances the starting time will be fixed at 4-0 pm instead of 10-00 am, the BIBM said in the press release.

Pak economic growth may fall short of target

ISLAMABAD, May 5: Pakistan's economy will grow an estimated 5.4 per cent in the fiscal year to this July, lower than the targeted 6 per cent, but up from the previous year, Finance Minister Sartaj Aziz said Monday, reports AFP.

He reported improvement in the agricultural sector, with increases in the yields of rice, sugarcane and wheat.

The country recorded Gross Domestic Product growth of around 3.1 per cent in the fiscal year to July 1997.

Aziz, who will present the next budget in June, told an advisory council that growth in the agriculture sector had been six per cent this year, up from a meagre 0.7 per cent the previous year.

Sugarcane output was an estimated 53 million tonnes, up from 42 million tonnes last year, rice output was 4.3 million tonnes, higher than the previous year and wheat production was 18.6 million tonnes, 12 per cent more than the previous year.

But cotton output was estimated at 9.2 million bales, lower than both the target of 10 million bales and last year's output of 9.4 million bales.

The first five months of the current fiscal year did not show "any sign of revival in industrial production" but from December onward the industrial sector started to move forward, Aziz said.

On the whole, major manufacturing had recovered from the negative growth of 1.4 per cent last year to around six per cent this year, he said.

Indian industry registers slower growth

BOMBAY, May 5: Indian industry registered slower growth in the six months to September 1997, the country's central bank said yesterday, reports AFP.

Reserve Bank of India (RBI), in a study of 1,262 non-financial firms, said sales in the first half of the fiscal year to March 98 grew 8.6 per cent, while net profits were up 0.8 per cent.

RBI said only 961 companies reported post-tax profit in this period, down from 1,171 in the same period the previous financial year.

The RBI did not specify a reason for the lower growth rates and the fewer number of companies reporting profits.

The bank said the top 70 companies, each with a size of more than 250 million rupees (6.4 million dollars), were hit the hardest, with a decline in both pre and post-tax profits.

Profits of most industries, except those in the tea, sugar, textiles and trading sectors fell in the period.

New settlement system becomes uncertain

Dhaka brokers' 'no' to stopping short-selling surprises SEC

By M Shamsur Rahman

The new "one-day trading adjustment settlement system" for both the exchanges have become uncertain as the Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE) took a negative stance over restriction on "short selling" and "carry forward".

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) on Thursday last sent a proposed draft of the new settlement system to both the exchanges asking for their opinion about the new mode of settlement by May 3.

The propose draft suggested some amendments to the existing "Settlement of the Stock Exchange Transactions Regulations, 1997" forbidding carry forward and short selling.

According to the proposed draft sent to the DSE, "no member shall be allowed to short sell any securities or carry forward any transaction. The de-

faulting member shall be barred from carrying out trading on the floors of DSE immediately upon detecting the default by DSE through spot verification of the member's book and records. DSE shall simultaneously furnish details of such default to the SEC.

The DSE in a reply on May 3 informed the Commission that its Council had agreed to accept the new settlement system but did not mention anything about the short selling and carry forward.

The regulators have been attributing the continuous slide in the market to short selling.

"The brokers used to sell shares without having them in their possession which used to result in a selling pressure causing index to slide," an SEC official explained.

According to the official, the SEC yesterday asked the bourse authority for a second time to clarify its position on short selling and carry forward, to which it replied: "The Council's decision has been conveyed to the SEC."

"It is clear from their attitude that they are in favour of short selling and carry forward," the official said. "The DSE on a number of occasions agreed on the withdrawal of short selling. But we are surprised by their attitude now. To ensure transparency in trading, it is absolutely necessary to abolish short selling and carry forward."

The SEC has the authority to impose the new settlement system and prohibit short selling and carry forward, the official said. "But we don't want to im-

pose it now. We have a meeting with the Chittagong Stock Exchange (CSE) tomorrow (Wednesday) and will hear what they have to say," the official said. "The Commission will decide later."

The DSE officials, when contacted, said the Council accepted all the proposed amendments except the "prohibition of carry forward or short selling".

According to the existing rule, "No member shall be allowed to short-sell any securities or carry forward any transaction beyond the related settlement date."

Under the new 'one day trading adjustment settlement system' the brokers would adjust their balance and make payments within three days from the trading day and then the ex-

changes would clear and settle the payments to brokerage firms within five days from the trading day.

And if the previous regulation is allowed to exist, then the DSE member would be able to continue with short selling of securities and carry forward the transaction till the third day from the trading day.

This raises the question: How would the market improve if short selling and carry forward is allowed?

The DSE had earlier said it might introduce the new 'one day trading adjustment settlement system' by next week. And this has become uncertain as the SEC is not likely to approve it without restricting the short selling and carry forward which they say leaves a scope for manipulation.

Dhaka to get Tk 107 cr Japanese grant aid

Star Business Report

Bangladesh will receive approximately Taka 107 crore as grant aid from Japan.

Two separate exchange of notes to this effect were signed between the two countries in the city yesterday, said a press statement of the Japanese embassy in Dhaka.

Yoshikazu Kaneko, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh, and Suhel Ahmed, Additional Secretary of Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance, penned the exchange of notes on behalf of their respective governments.

Under the first exchange of

notes, Japan will provide Bangladesh with a grant assistance of 1177 million yen (approximately Taka 39 crore) for the execution of the project for improvement of Maternal and Child Health Training Institute (MCHTI) at Azimpur.

Under the second exchange of notes, Japan will provide Bangladesh with a grant assistance of 1965 million yen (approximately Taka 68 crore) in 3 phases for the project for Reconstruction of Small and Medium Bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong Highway.



Yoshikazu Kaneko, Ambassador of Japan to Bangladesh and Suhel Ahmed, Additional Secretary, ERD, signed two exchange of notes regarding grant assistance of 3,142 billion Yen for improvement of MCHTI and reconstruction of small and medium bridges on Dhaka-Chittagong highways.

ADB president says Other developing countries may face Asian-like crisis

PARIS, May 5: The Asian financial crisis could be repeated in other developing countries as they reach a similar stage of development, the President of the Asian Development Bank said here yesterday, reports AFP.

As the crisis is a new challenge facing developing countries as they go up the economic ladder, Mitsuo Sato told business leaders.

"The same problems could emerge in other countries when they reach a similar stage of economic development," he said, although he did not identify any likely victims.

He noted that the nations hit by the financial and economic crisis last year were among the most developed in Asia, "and for that reason more successful in attracting large inflows of foreign private capital."

Senior South Korean and Thai officials told the symposium that the crisis had been a blessing in disguise, enabling the financial and social structures in their countries to catch up with other areas.

"The financial crisis represents an opportunity for the Korean people to actually transform flawed systems and make greater inroads toward global integration," Ho-Shik Kim, South Korean Deputy Minister for International Affairs, said.

Thai Trade Minister Supachai Panitchpakdi said that in many ways the crisis was a 'blessing in disguise which has

accelerated things that we needed to be doing," enabling social and financial structures to catch up.

Sato said that although 1998 would be "an even more challenging year" for Asia than 1997, "Asia's potential is far from exhausted."

He said that while Asian growth may slip to about 4 per cent this year from 6.1 per cent in 1997, some areas, such as South Asia, might manage faster growth than last year, and for crisis-hit areas "I expect that by 1999 there will be some recovery of growth."

Both Panitchpakdi and Kim reiterated their countries' commitment to opening up their countries to long-term foreign investment rather than the short-term borrowing that helped spark the crisis, but Panitchpakdi warned outsiders not to push them to move too fast.

"You really have to be patient" about acquiring or establishing companies in Asia, he said, because if countries try to introduce reforms too fast they "could risk a surge of nationalist sentiment" against opening up to foreign ownership and investment.

Jacques Lefevre, Managing Director of French construction group Lafarge, said that his company found Asia a "difficult" market, and that given the high debt levels of companies currently seeking new owners,

it was out of the question to take them over unless his company could have a majority stake.

"There will be opportunities" as a result of the market opening efforts in Asia, "but whether they will be at bargain basement prices is another matter," he said, noting that some companies are giving themselves high price tags out of proportion to their value given their high debts.

He also questioned whether the reforms undertaken so far will be enough to turn the economies around and ensure sustainable growth in the future.

China to privatise 1000 factories

BEIJING, May 5: In its first big sell-off of state companies, China will privatise 1,000 small and medium-sized businesses in the northeastern province of Heilongjiang, an official newspaper reported Tuesday, says AP.

Heilongjiang is an old industrial base with many state factories. It has 3,538 small and medium-sized state factories, which make up 94 per cent of its total number of state industrial enterprises, the Economic Reference News reported.

The newspaper said officials planned to sell the factories or take "various measures" to attract investment in them.

WTO chief praises 'euro' launch

GENEVA, May 5: World Trade Organisation Director General Renato Ruggiero yesterday hailed the official launch of the 'euro' over the weekend, reports AFP.

In Europe's we have had terrible wars and today we have a single currency," he told a group of Swiss journalists.

"And we have this single currency because of men who had the intuition to say that we must lower trade barriers between our countries and peoples."

Ruggiero staunchly defended globalisation just two weeks before the WTO's second ministerial conference that will unite the body's 132-member countries in day-long celebrations to mark the creation of its predecessor, the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade, fifty years ago.

The elimination of trade barriers and the establishment of global trading rules were not in any way responsible for the uneven distribution of wealth or social and environmental problems.

Ecologists should "defend the environment, not stop trade," Ruggiero said insisting that problems today require a "global solution."

Ministers who attend the conference on May 18 and 20 will establish a working programme to "spearhead global trade negotiations." They only alternative to global trade rules were "arrogance and violence."

Asked about the impact of Asia's financial crisis, the Italian WTO chief said he hoped that lessons would be learned by improving preventive systems.

Main currencies stable

Another report from AFP says: The main currencies were rather stable yesterday after-

Thai central bank governor resigns

BANGKOK, May 5: Thailand's central bank governor resigned Monday to avoid dismissal amid scathing criticism of alleged mismanagement at the height of last year's financial turmoil, reports AFP.

WB team visits CSE

A World Bank team led by former Chief Justice of India, AN Ahmedi, visited the Chittagong Stock Exchange on Monday.

Justice Ahmedi is helping World Bank on request from Bangladesh to reform its legal and judicial system under Legal and Judicial Capacity Building Project.

As part of this project, the World Bank team met the CSE members and a number of local business elites.

During the meeting, presided over by the CSE Vice-President M. Salmaan Ispahani, a discussion was held on the various aspects of the judicial and legal systems in Bangladesh, including court procedures and business related laws and other areas of law where intensive addressing is needed.

The WB team expressed satisfaction over the feedback they received from the discussion.

Mohsin Ali Khan, Operations Adviser and Dr. Mynuddin Hussain of World Bank, AK Chowdhury, CSE Vice-President, Syed Mahmudul Huq, Director, Salauddin Kasem Khan, Engr. Ali Ahmed Anis A. Khan, Akteruzzaman and AGM Shamsul Kamal, CEO, took part in the discussion.

Prof. Khaled, Editor and MA. Malek, Managing Editor, The Daily Azadi, Taslim Uddin Chowdhury, Managing Editor, the Daily Purbakone, S. Fazul Haque, MD of Glaxo Wellcome and Zia Hossain, Adviser of KEPZ, were also present at the meeting.

Debate on impact of Asian crisis this week

HONG KONG, May 5: Senior politicians and businessmen from the United States and Asia will debate the long-term impact of the regional financial crisis at a conference in Hong Kong this week, organisers said, reports AFP.

The ninth Asia Society annual conference kicks off Wednesday night, with key-note address by Pakistan's Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif.

About 500 key business figures are expected to attend, along with government officials including Vietnam's Deputy Prime Minister Pham Gia Khiem, South Korean Deputy Finance Minister Duck-Koo Chung and China's Vice-Minister of Foreign Trade and Cooperation Long Yongtu.

"There is always a lot of scepticism about conferences that they are just talkshows..." said Asia Society Vice President for Policy and Business Programmes, Kevin Quigley.

"We want to make sure this conference leaves some real footprints behind," he said.

Roundtable seminars will include discussion on how ef-

fective measures taken so far have been in tackling the financial crisis whether political problems, including leadership transitions were posing obstacles to growth and how to step up supervision of financial institutions.

The Asia Society is also due to release a key report at the conference on the long-term social and political implication of the turmoil that has wrecked the region since mid-1997.

The report, prepared by a group including former US Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia Winston Lord, will also study the impact of the crisis on Asia-US relations.

"In our view most of the analysis of the crisis has been short term, in our view it has long term social, political and strategic consequences," Quigley said.

The Asia Society, headquartered in New York, was founded in the United States in 1956 to promote understanding and ties with Asia.

The main conference takes place on Thursday and Friday.



Former Indian Chief Justice AN Ahmedi (3rd-R) at a meeting with CSE Vice Presidents M Salmaan Ispahani and A K Chowdhury, Director Syed Mahmudul Huq and Chief Executive AGM Shamsul Kamal on Monday.

Exchange Rates

Following is the Tuesday's forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank, Dhaka.
Central Bank USD/BDT Rate: Buying-BDT46.15/Selling-BDT 46.45

Selling		Buying			
TT/OD	EC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight	OD
				Doc	Transfer
46.5100	46.5500	USD	46.1150	45.9600	45.8400
77.9043	77.9713	GBP	76.5509	76.2936	76.0944
26.2917	26.3143	DEM	25.7626	25.6760	25.5661
0.3530	0.3533	JPY	0.3445	0.3434	0.3425
31.4363	31.4633	CHF	30.7331	30.6298	30.4889
23.3250	23.3450	NLG	22.8859	22.8089	22.7156
29.6053	29.6308	SGD	28.9485	28.8512	28.7218
7.8207	7.8275	FRF	7.7012	7.6754	7.6515
32.6615	32.6896	CAD	31.9135	31.8062	31.6575
6.0807	6.0859	SEK	5.9748	5.9547	5.9368
30.3245	30.3506	AUD	29.1677	29.0697	28.8563
12.0390	13.0502	MYR	12.1901	12.1491	12.1270
6.0106	6.0158	HKD	5.9434	5.9234	5.9103
12.4692	12.4799	SAR	12.2289	12.1877	12.1656

Usage Export Bills

TT DOC	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
46.015	45.731	45.352	44.9162	44.4425	43.3183

Exchange Rates of Some Asian Currencies Against US Dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
39.71/81	44.10/13	38.50/595	3.6670/3.6730	7990/8040	1345/49

US Dollar

Buying	Selling	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	12 Months
Cash 46.05	46.6	USD 5.65625	5.69141	5.78125	5.90234
Notes					
TC 45.9	46.5	GBP 7.41406	7.47266	7.46094	7.41797

Indicative forward cover selling rates against Taka

	1	2	3	4	5	6
	Month	Months	Months	Months	Months	Months
USD/BDT	46.69	46.90	47.11	47.32	47.53	47.74
GBP/BDT	77.90	78.16	78.39	78.65	78.90	79.15
DEM/BDT	26.36	26.53	26.69	26.90	27.02	27.18
T						
CHF/BDT	31.53	31.79	32.04	32.29	32.54	32.80

Market Commentary

The local money market was steady on Tuesday amidst maturity of one year treasury bills of Taka 107 crore. Bangladesh bank accepted bid for 30 days treasury bills of Taka 115 crore at the rate of 8.50 per cent and 360 days treasury bills of Taka 88 crore at the rate of 10.40 per cent. The call money rate was said to range between seven and eight per cent. Demand for the US dollar remained high mainly due to import payments and it was reported to have traded between Taka 46.4500 and 46.4650.

In the international foreign exchange markets, the US dollar weakened against European currencies and Japanese Yen. At the European Commission summit held last weekend, 11 nations were qualified for first round of EMU in 1999 and Dutchman Wim Duisenberg was elected as the governor of the European Central Bank. He will run the office till 2002 and then Jean Claude Trichet, French Central Bank governor, will take over for eight-year term.

Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute
Joydebpur, Gazipur

Corrigendum

No: 9021 Dated: 5-5-98

Sealed international competitive bids were invited through daily Bangladesh Observer dated 25.03.98 and The Daily Star dated 31.03.98 by the Bangladesh Agricultural Research Institute (BARI) for procurement of 1100 KVA Diesel Generator with installation included in the Agricultural Research Management Project (ARMP), BARI-Part financed by the World Bank IDA Credit No. 2815-BD vide this office Invitation for Bids (IFB) No. 7450 dated 09.03.98. The invitation for bids have been cancelled due to partial modification of some of the terms and conditions of bidding documents as well as the technical specifications of the Generator. Bids will be invited once again through daily newspapers soon after the modifications of bidding documents are finalised. Bidders/tenders who have already purchased the bidding documents earlier for Generator are requested to collect the modified bidding documents from the office of the undersigned and the Member-Director (Administration & Finance), Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC), Farmgate, Dhaka, Bangladesh after floating of tenders.

Dr. M Sahadad Hossain
Chief Scientific Officer and Head
Planning and Evaluation Division
For Director General

C-328 BARI, Joydebpur, Gazipur.

"SUMMONS / NOTICE"

IN THE 4TH ARTHA RIN ADALAT, DHAKA

TITLE SUIT NO. 111/ 1996

UTTARA BANK LIMITED, Ramna Branch
68/1, Purana Paltan, Dhaka.

.....Plaintiff

-Vurses-

Mr. Mostafa Maksudur Rahman,
33/A, Dilu Road, New Eskaton,
Dhaka.

.....Defendant.

Notice is hereby given that the plaintiff Bank has filed the above suit for recovery of its dues against the defendant T.K 10,53,698.00 (Taka ten lac fifty three thousand six hundred ninety eight) only as on 16.10.1996 against House building loan facility.

The suit is fixed for hearing on 14.5.98 you may contest the suit filing written statement, if any, before the date is fixed otherwise the suit will be disposed off in your absence according to Law.

By Order
Mohammad Ali Bhuiyan
(Sherestadar)
Sub-Judge Artharin Adalat No. 4, Dhaka.