## Trade unions eager to buy nine loss-making textiles mills

# Lack of decision delays govt-workers deal

The process of handing over of nine state-owned textile mills to workers has stuck as the government is yet to decide on a policy framework in this

The mills were closed down last year after they incurred a cumulative loss of around Tk 210 crore over the last few years. The employees and workers were offered the socalled "golden handshake". textile ministry sources said.

The government accepted an offer from trade unions and decided to hand over the mills to them after they had expressed

WASHINGTON, July 1: The

United States is letting huge

World Bank loans and private

sector investment to India con-

tinue despite last month's defi-

ant nuclear tests, cushioning

the blow of its own economic

posed in May, Washington said

lars in aid — from the World

Bank, the International Mone-

tary Fund and other agencies —

to punish New Delhi for step-

ping up its arms race against

Pakistan, which responded

based Unocal Corp said on

Tuesday it plans to develop a

broad range of energy projects

in India over the next five

years, requiring four billion

at helping the poor, is already

when the World Bank's board

approved a 543 million dollar

health and education loan for

the southern Indian state of

tional 506 million dollars in

The Bank approved an addi-

HONG KONG, July 1: Asian

stock markets closed higher

across the board on Wednesday,

with share prices soaring in

Seoul and Tokyo on the

strength of the Japanese cur-

against the yen on a report that

the Japanese government will

cut taxes to bolster the econ-

in late afternoon, down 1.71

of 139.16 yen overnight.

yen from late Tuesday in Tokyo

and below its late New York rate

Exchange surged on the back of

the stronger yen, with the key

Korea Composite Stock Price

Index rising 17.68 points, or 5.6

US Treasury Secretary Robert

Rubin that South Korea appears

to be moving in the right direc-

tion with its economic reforms

also boosted the South Korean

representatives of the American

Nikkei Stock Average jumped

532.62 points, or 3.36 per cent,

closing at 16,362.89 — its high-

has climbed for six sessions,

gaining almost nine per cent.

On Tuesday, it gained 464.54

points, or 3.02 per cent.

The benchmark average now

Japanese financial markets

est since April 10.

In Tokyo, the 225-issue

business community in Seoul.

Rubin made his remarks to

Traders said comments by

per cent, to close at 315.20.

market.

Shares on the Seoul Stock

It was quoted at 138.24 yen

The US dollar tumbled

more or less back on track.

World Bank lending, aimed

Lending resumed last week,

dollars to finance.

Andhra Pradesh.

rency, reports AP.

Despite the sanctions, US-

with nuclear tests of its own.

it would cut off billions of dol-

When US sanctions were im-

sanctions, reports Reuters.

their willingness to take over. "But the decision has not yet been implemented as a formula in this connection is et to be finalised," a ministry official

Two separate committees were formed, one headed by the industries secretary Izajul Haque for formulating the terms and conditions and the other led by Kazi Zafrullah, chairman of Privatisation Board (PB), for implementing the decision.

The Izajul Haque committee submitted its recommendations a couple of months back, which

US letting huge WB loans, pvt

By Rafiq Hasan

are yet to be approved by higher authorities. "We cannot start working on the transfer process until the

hand-over formula is approved by the authorities," said a senior PB official.

"Each of these mills has vast areas of land and huge property. And we cannot give away any government land or property to anybody without approval from the appropriate authorities," the official added.

The government has already decided to separate the mills' extra lands from factory premises before surrendering

ownership of the units. Of the nine mills, losses incurred by Meghna Textile Mills at Tongi were the highest, around Tk 83 crore till Decem-

ber 1997. Set up before independence, Meghna has 23.12 acres of land and property worth around Tk 83.81 crore. The mill has also a liability of Tk 68.89 crore in long overdue loans.

Olympia Textile Mill was established in 1952 at Tongi for producing yarn and fabrics. But the mill was closed down when it started incurring annual losses of around Tk 9.10 crore.

It has 41 acres of land and immovable property worth Tk 54.22 crore.

Monno Textile Mills, established in 1961 has 27.69 acres of land and property worth Tk 61 crore. The mill was sustaining losses of Tk 7.53 crore annually.

Other mils identified for transfer include Fine Cotton Mills at Tongi, Laxmi Narayan Cotton Mills at Narayanganj. National Cotton mill in Chittagong, Pylon Industries Ltd in Chittagong, Caroline Silk Mills in Chittagong and Zinat Textile Mills at Tongi.

- BPC photo

Several prominent advo-

cates of microcredit met for the

informal dialogue at the UN

headquarters. They greatly ap-

preciated the purpose of this

non-traditional approach to

lending which is to make com-

mercial credit available to low-

income people, mostly women

who are not normally eligible

dit" was organised by the

friends of microcredit at the

representative to UN Ambas-

sador Anwarul Karim Chowd-

hury coordinated the informal

President Fujimori is a

member of the Executive Com-

mittee of the Microcredit

Summit Campaign goal of

which is to ensure that 100 mil-

lion of the world's poorest fam-

ilies, especially women receive

credit for self-employment and

other financial and business

group, the message said.

services by 2005.

The "dialogue on microcre-

Bangladesh permanent

for such loans.

Kota Berjaya 30/6

## Shipping Intelligence **Chittagong Port**

Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 01.07.98. Name of Vessels Date of Leaving Agent Arrival Andhika Tarunaga 11/6

J/2	Ryong Nam San	Rice (D)	Kaki	OWSL	13/6	2/7
J/3	Myohyang-3	C Clink	Sing	USTC	19/06	4/7
J/4	Svendborg Governor	GI	P Kela	Sunshine	26/6	1/7
J/5	Bay Sisters	GI	Walo	Seacom	11/6	3/7
J/6	Lu Shan	Sugar (G)	Hong	Seacom	9/6	8/7
J/7	Ocean Sampad	GI	Yang	Everett	30/6	1/7
J/8	Yayasandua	GI	Busa	Prog	21/6	2/7
J/9	Kurnia Sejati	Rice (G)	Kaki	OTL	17/6	4/7
J/10	Calatagan	CI	Sing	Seaglory	13/6	10/7
J/11	Xpress Nilgiri	Cont	Sing	RSL	24/6	3/7
J/12	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	24/6	2/7
J/13	Prorsrich	Cont	Sing	QCSL	26/6	3/7
CCT/1	Nuptse	Cont	Sing	RSL	24/6	4/7
CCT/3	Banga Biraj	Cont	Sing	BDShip	28/6	2/7
RM/14	Ryomyong	Cement	Sing	Delmure	21/5	5/7
യ	Elang-III	C Clink	Lank	Seacom	15/6	2/7
GSJ	Delta Star	Wheat (G)	Darb	RSA	20/5	2/7
TSP	Navigator-D	R Phos	Jin	Seacom	14/6	2/7
RM/3	Ulyanovsk	CDSO	P Will	Seacom	21/6	1/7
RM/4	Wald Al Agouz	Cement	Pada	RML	R/A	4/7
RM/6	Surabay Express	Cement	Herin	MHCSL	6/6	4/7
DD	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	190000000 19	BSC	R/A	10/7
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	(#	200000000000000000000000000000000000000
RM/8	Pride of the South	Cement	Sing	RSA	R/A	4/7
RM/9	Banglar Doot	Repair	Sing	BSC	24/6	13/7
CUFLJ	Josie	Idle/Rice(P		USTC	28/4	

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage Name of Vessels Cargo Loading Arriva Agent GI (St Coil) Sirte Star Taiw Cross Sea Bright 20/6 Banglar Moni 14/6 BSC Sing Cont BSC Banglar Kallol Repair Sin Hai 21/6 Sing QCSL Cont Male BSC Banglar Mamata Kinabali CLA Enameslas (48) 14/6 GI (Log) Sing Sing RSL Da Fa 22/6 Cont Banglar Shikha 23/6 4/7 Sing BSC Cont Sing MHCSL Cement Pelopor Jaka Prog GI Esco Argo GI (Vehi) Prog Able Fusilier Sing Dilegence Cont 25/6 **GCST** Sing Cont Xin Dong Fah Baridhi G Mahaslu 23/6 Baridhi Cont Al Salma ASLL CI Sing Sing Sing Pil (BD) Cont Hai Xiong 28/6 Sing Baridhi Cont Abuja 25/6 Taiping Star 9/6 Sing Sing AML Cont Handy Lily Sing Wheat (G) Ancient Qc Teal 25/6 **QCSL** Sing Cont **QCSL** Sing Qc Pintail 28/6 Sing Cont Sing Sing M Regina 28/6 Pil (BD) Cont

Vessels at Kutubdia					
Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival	
Laut Tide	15 <b>.0</b> 21	5056	B Bay	R/A (15/6)	
Kuzbass	C Oil	Jebe	DSL	24/6	
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil	((*)	BSC	R/A	

Sing

Tanker Due

10/7

Pil (BD) Cont

Sing

Vessels at Outer Anchorage Ready On Seacom Sing Sugar (G) George OWSL Kaki Rice (G) Rong Jiang 27/6 **BDShip** S Hai Yong Jiang AASS Zilina BSC Sing Banglar Robi Cont RSL Sing Cont Xpress Resolve

Vessels Not Ready

	Vessels N	ot Enteri	nø	5985
Vega-T			Litmond	R/A (12/6)
Tempest	Cement	*	HSL	R/A (26/5)
Martina	Separate Com	**	Cross	R/A (25/6)
Banglar Kakoli	Ħ	8 <u></u>	BSC	R/A (28/6)
Banglar Kiron	8	表	BSC	R/A (19/6)
Banglar Asha			BSC	R/A (5/6)
7	essels Awai	ting Instr	uction	
Ritz	Rice (P)	Kaki	Cross	R/A (27/6)
Vivi	CDSO	Durb	Rainbow	27/6
Elang-VII	Cement	Kar	USTC	20/6
Delight Glory	Cement	Bang	PSAL	20/6

Sea R	anger	Mop	Ukri	Litmond	22/5
Jan 2	1 Page 1 (2) 1 Page 1 (2) 2 Page 1	Wheat (P)	Sing	Rainbow	19/6
241 TO 10 TO	an Shan	5 <del>8</del> 3	156	Bright	R/A (20/6)
500 CON 100 TELEVISION	wissco-181	9 <del>8</del> 9	Sing	Simni	21/6
	nwood Glory	Scraping	Mala	Simni	21/6
Lima		Scraping	Rott	OTL	29/6
Marine Co.	Мо	vement of V	essels for	2.7.98	
Outgo	CONTRACTOR OF THE PARTY OF THE	Incoming			Shifting
J/1	A Tarunaga	J/12	B Moni	CUFLJ .	Josie To J/1
J/2	Ryong Nam	Sam J/2	B Mama	ta	
1.10	V D.		Zilina		

Yayasan Dua ·Zilina J/8 NB Kota Cahaya Sea Bright CCT/3 X-Press Resolve CCT/3 Banga Biraj Geroge CCJ Elang-II Sirte Star GSJ NB Delta Star Martina TSP Navigator CCJ Elang-VII RM/3 Ulayanovsk B Shourabh The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Although Hong Kong has weathered Asia's financial crisis

## have rallied on growing expec-Meeting on Simex brand tyre marketing held

Star Business Report Khansons Automobiles Ltd, a member of Khansons Group organised a discussion meeting on marketing of Simex brand tyre at a local hotel recently.

At the meeting, tyre-tube traders from across the country exchanged views on marketing scope for Simex brand tyre. Their suggestions have been noted by the management of the

company. Chairman of the Group, A K M Azizur Rahman presided over the meeting which was followed by a cosy dinner, said the company in a press statement.

## Tk 8 cr Mymensingh Poura budget announced

MYMENSINGH, July 1: Mymensingh Pourashava has announced a Tk 8.23 crore balanced budget for the fiscal 1998-99, reports UNB.

Pourashava Chairman Delwar Hossain Khan Dulu announced the budget on Monday.

Of the total budget, Tk 4.83 crore will come from revenue collection while Tk 3.40 crore from the government grants. He also announced a Tk 9.85

crore revised budget of the Pourashava for the fiscal 1997-Local commissioners, newsmen and government officials

were present on the occasion.

loans for India late on Tuesday to fund health and agriculture

investment to India continue

istan hardest, even though it was the second to test. The IMF postponed a payment to Islamabad earlier this month and the government devalued the rupee as part of an emergency pack-

"Those who might have been concerned about the state of the economy in the face of sanctions will feel reassured now that the World Bank has started lending," India's executive director at the World Bank. Surendra Singh, told Reuters.

The White House is also taking steps to spare the private sector. The Clinton administration is drafting executive orders that will minimse the impact of the sanctions on US banks and firms that do business in the rival states, US official said. The orders may be issued in the coming days. The White House has been

under enormous pressure from US agricultural and aid groups to minimise damage to the poor and trade.

Business lobbies say unilateral sanctions do not work and

Asian stock markets close higher

tations that the governing Lib-

eral Democratic Party will pro-

pose a sweeping tax cut ahead of

Investors are optimistic a

Malaysian shares also

The Kuala Lumpur Stock Ex-

In Singapore, shares closed

upper house elections July 12.

tax cut would spur consumer

spending, lifting Japan out of

its worst recession since World

surged in reaction to gains on

change's Composite Index rose

by 15.59 points, or 3.4 per cent,

sharply higher as a change in

sentiment on Japan was taken

as an opportunity to put funds

the Japanese market.

to 471.23.

recently.

sonal savings.

deregulation.

largest brokerage.

dollar surplus.

dollar surplus.

the government said as Wednesday.

try and Energy Ministry said.

the biggest increase in a decade.

ber to 33, the company said.

Games.

only clear the way for competitors from Japan and Europe to step in. They have urged the The sanctions have hit Pak- White House and members of Congress to reform US sanc-

tions policy. Last week US Senate Republican leader Trent Lott created a task force to examine the sanctions and Sen. Joe Biden, a Democrat, introduced a bill that would allow the President to normalise most economic relations with India and Pakistan.

US officials insist the White House will take a firm stance on military aid and will cut off some trade finance.

The Commerce Department said it would block sales of powerful computers to Indian and Pakistani agencies involved in nuclear and missile programmes.

Treasury officials say Washington will bar private bank lending to both governments. But the White House said it

would "favourably consider on a case-by-case basis" US exports that do not support nuclear. missile and other military activities, and would not restrict bank lending to the private

back into the local market.

Singapore's benchmark

The markets were closed in

JAKARTA: Share prices

MANILA: Philippine stocks

— Khansons photo

closed higher for a second day.

The Composite Index rose by

closed higher, extending their

rebound to a third trading day.

The 30-share Philippine Stock

Exchange Index rose 21.83

10.621 points, or 2.4 per cent,

Straits Times Industrial Index

closed 28.44 points, or 2.7 per

Hong Kong, Taiwan and Thai-

cent, higher at 1,095.10.

land for holidays.

Elsewhere:

points.

SIMEX TYRE

ব্যবসায়িক মতবিনিময় অনুষ্ঠান

A K M Azizur Rahman, Chairman of Khansons Group

addresses the tyre-tube traders at a meeting in the city

TOKYO: The United States' largest brokerage opened the first

Merrill Lynch Japan Securities Co, a unit of New York-based

branch of its new Japanese retail unit on Wednesday, formally

entering the market for managing Japan's massive pool of per-

Merrill Lynch and Co, opened the branch in the central

Japanese city of Nagano, the site of this year's Winter Olympic

branches by the end of July and eventually increase that num-

rapidly in Japan, where domestic rivals have been plagued by

repeated scandals and are scrambling to adapt to sweeping

Fidelity Investments Co has announced similar plans.

Japan's financial markets to new companies and products.

Japan's nine trillion dollars pool of individual savings.

than 250 billion yen (1.8 billion dollars) in hidden losses.

Merrill Lynch Japan Securities plans to open 28 more

Merrill Lynch and other foreign brokerages are expanding

The deregulation, called the "big bang," is throwing open

Merrill Lynch and other foreigners are vying to get a piece of

Merrill Lynch created its retail brokerage unit in February

Yamaichi collapsed in November after revealing it had more

SEOUL: South Korea's trade surplus widened to 3.92 billion

But the country's exports dropped by 5.6 per cent in June, the

South Korea hoped to use its weak currency to ship more

The cumulative trade surplus in the first six months this

BANGKOK: Thai inflation is soaring as the country grapples

with economic crisis, with the Commerce Ministry reporting on

Wednesday that consumer prices rose by 10.7 per cent in June,

year reached 19.99 billion dollars, compared with a 9.16 billion

dollars shortfall a year ago. In the same period, exports in-

creased by 3.6 per cent but imports decreased by 36 per cent.

dollars in June, thanks to a sharp 36.6 per cent drop in imports,

second consecutive monthly contraction, the Commerce, Indus-

by hiring 2.100 former employees and taking over several

branch offices of failed Yamaichi Securities Co, Japan's fourth-

তারিখা। ২৫ লে জুন-১৯৯৮ ইং

भूगवात्वात्वेत गुर्वाणी चैन्डाबलडामालाल लिः

dealers said.

desh, reports BSS. While taking part in an informal dialogue at the United Nations on June 26, president Fujimori said "it (microcredit) was perhaps the most cost-effective strategy for creating jobs and income at the very bottom of the economic ladder," according to a delayed message received in Dhaka from New

President Alberto Fujimori

of Peru has highly praised the

microcredit programme, a sys-

tem of lending for the poorest of

the poor, initiated in Bangla-

Bangladesh recently.

Journalist Mark Tully discusses with Chairman of

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation Khondoker Rashidul

Hug the investment opportunities in tourism sector of

Peru President praises

microcredit programme

President Fujimori, who visited Bangladesh last year and saw for himself microcredit programmes and their effect on poverty alleviation, said with loans as small as 80 US dollars (Tk 3800) to 200 dollars (Taka 9500), people could create their own job.

Professor Mohammad Yunus, founder of Grameen Bank, also spoke on the occa-

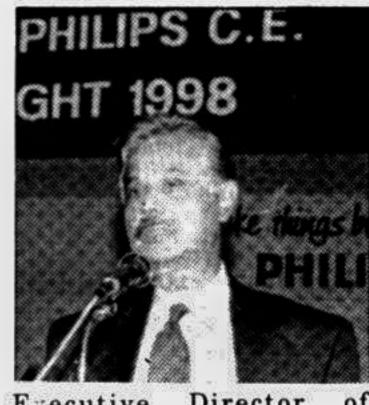
# Philips CE Dealers Night held

Star Business Report The 1998 Philips Consumer Electronics Dealers' Night and the Prize distribution ceremony was held at the Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel recently.

Executive Director of Transcom Electronics Limited Obaidur Rahman Khan gave away the prizes. Star Electronics of Dhaka was declared the best dealer. The prizes include trips to

Dubai, Singapore, Kathmandu, Philips TV. Philips CD player. Whirlpool Refrigerator, Philips domestic appliances, etc. The Dealers Night was fol-

lowed by dinner and cultural show, said a press statement yesterday.



E-ecutive Director of Transcom Electronics Limited Obaidur Rahman Khan addressing the 1998 Philips Consumer Electronics Dealers Night and Prize Distribution ceremony recently. - Philips CE photo

# Business briefs

The ministry attributed the increase to surging food prices, especially rice and starch products and fruits and vegetables.
But Karun Kittisataporn, director general of the ministry's Business Economics Department, said the increase was still below the 12.2 per cent forecast by the International Monetary Fund, which is administering a 17.2 billion dollars bailout for Thailand.

Inflation has been rising since Thailand abandoned exchange rates pegged to the US dollar a year ago, inadvertently sparking the Asian economic crisis. The government has promised the IMF to try to keep consumer price inflation at 10.5 per cent this year. Karun said he expected 1998 inflation to come in just under

that figure. The IMF has forecast that the June inflation figure will represent the peak of year-on-year inflation. Karun said. Year-on-year consumer inflation in the first half of 1998 was 9.7 per cent, compared with 4.4 per cent in the same period in 1997. Analysts say year-on-year inflation should ease in the second half of the year.

SINGAPORE: Singapore Airlines will begin offering its economy class passengers a frequent flyer miles programme, which has been limited so far to first and business class travellers, a newspaper reported on Wednesday.

Beginning in February 1999, all SIA passengers will earn air miles on SIA and SilkAir flights, as well as on flights with SIA's alliance partners: Lufthansa, Air New Zealand, Ansett Australia and Ansett International. SilkAir is the holiday operator arm of Singapore Airlines.

SIA's marketing director Huang Cheng Eng told The Straits Times that the new programme will also offer some additional benefits and privileges for frequent flyers.

currency link to the US dollar. In an interview late Thursday, Tsang had said there are costs

But he also said he would step down from the job he has had for almost two years if the peg goes. Local interbank rates went up and the Hong Kong dollar

weakened against US dollar slightly early Friday on his

better than most countries, it is paying dearly for the peg.

Interest rates are kept high, eating into corporate profits and hurting bank liquidity. The economy, which shrank two per cent in the first quarter, is on the brink of recession. Economists are divided over whether the peg should go. Some say scrapping it would hurt investors' confidence in Hong Kong and the region, while others think floating the Hong Kong

currency is the only way to keep the territory competitive. SUVA: Fiji's national airline Air Pacific on Wednesday posted its 12th successive annual profit, despite the Asian crisis injuring the island nation's vital tourism industry.

The airline reported an after-tax profit of 3.95 million US dollars (8.3 million Fiji dollars) for the year to March 31, 1998, a \$252,000 (600,000 Fiji dollars) improvement on the previous year's result.

Air Pacific chairman Gerald Barrack said the result reflected difficult items in the Asia-Pacific region, but that the directors would recommend a dividend to shareholders at the annual meeting in October.

Barrack said that after a difficult restructuring period. Air Pacific was now "postured for growth." The airline restructured its operations earlier this year.

sacking more than 100 employees. In May, Australia's Qantas Airways Ltd, increased its shareholding in pacific to 46 per cent from 17.5 per cent by buying shares offered on the open market by the government, which

kept 51 per cent control. Air Pacific revenue rose by 7.5 per cent to 135.6 million dollars (284 million Fiji dollars) and expenditures rose by 10 per

cent to 132.6 million dollars (278 million Fiji dollars), the airline said. WELLINGTON: The Asian financial crisis may be the most

shocks of the 1970s, Reserve Bank governor Don Brash said on Friday. But the difference this time is that New Zealand is prepared

sector debt and improving the flexibility and adaptability of the economy as a whole, will be evident to all to see," Brash said. Brash said New Zealand's strengths are a strong banking sector, a floating exchange rate and low public sector debt. He said New Zealand assets had not been badly overpriced as

exporters switch to non-Asian markets. Growth figures released by Statistics New Zealand on Friday showed the economy shrank by 0.9 per cent in the March quarter, the first quarter to record negative growth for more Source : AP

## Pak stocks

surge KARACHI, July 1: Pakistani stocks surged yesterday by 8.5 per cent on a buying spree in leading scrips following a supreme court decision to dismiss a government petition against Hub Power Co (HUBCO). dealers said, reports AFP.

The KSE-100 index gained 68.59 points to close at 879.62 in heavy trade of 123.91 million shares, they said.

The KSE-100 index closed on Monday at 811.03 points, its lowest ever mark. The supreme court on Tues-

day refused to accept the government plea to cut the Hubco Power tariff by half. Traders reacted positively to this news with heavy buying in

the blue chip stocks. The market had been under pressure since the nuclear tests by India and Pakistan last month and a row over the power

## Big Euro bourses lose ground

LONDON, July 1: Leading European share markets all lost ground yesterday with declines amounting to 0.88 per cent in London, 1.05 per cent in Paris, and a moderate 0.30 per cent in Frankfurt, reports AFP.

London stocks were pulled down by expectations of an interest rate increase by the Bank of England and by a weak Wall Street opening.

The Footsie index gave up 52 points or 0.88 per cent on the day to end at 5,832.5 points.

Operators were concerned about a possible increase of base rate, now 7.5 per cent, on July 9 at the next meeting of the Bank of England's monetary policy committee.

Such expectations have strengthened sterling, hurting shares of big British exporters. The Paris bourse suffered a sizable setback, after having reached a all 9-time record high during the session, as the CAC 40 index finished at 4,234.38 points, down 1.05 per cent from the Monday close.

But the indicator reached an all-time high during the session of 4,263.61 points. Share volume weighed in at 17 billion francs on the monthly settle-

ment market. Frankfurt stocks suffered a moderate loss as the DAX index finished the day at 5,897.44 points, down 0.30 per cent by comparison with the official close on Monday.

On Monday, the indicator had risen 0.76 per cent to 5,915.13 points. The Frankfurt bond market fell and the average yield on government issues rose by 0.02

'point to 4.58 per cent. The Amsterdam bourse managed a modest gain as the AEX index pushed up (barely) through the 1,200-point level to end at 1,200.30 points against 1,197.86 at the Monday close. The Milan stock market lost

0.59 per cent on the Mibtel in-IMF runs short of cash, says Camdessus

FRANKFURT, July 1: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is running out of cash and if it makes another huge loan to Russia it would have to activate refinancing provisions. Director General Michel Camdessus said today, reports AFP. The imancial aid for Asia provided by the IMF could lead to a liquidity bottleneck,

Camdessus said in a newspaper interview. The financial and monetary crisis in Asia had drained funds from the IMF. Camdessus told the Handelsblatt newspaper.

And if the situation in Russia worsened as the IMF considered granting a loan of 10-15 billion dollars to the Russian government, the IMF would have to "launch its life boat," Camdessus said.

This was a reference to an agreement signed by the G10 countries and Switzerland in 1962 providing 17.4 billion drawing rights (equivalent to about 24 billion dollars) to the IMF at times of crisis.

#### Exchange Rates The following are the Sonali

Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 1st July '98. Buying

Name of Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight Export Bills	OD Transfer
US Dir	46.1500	45.9603	45.8605
GB Pound	76.5015	76.1870	76.0216
D Mark	25.3992	25.2948	25.2399
F Franc	7.5743	7.5432	7.5268
C.Dlr	31.3057	31.1770	31.1093
S Franc	30.1802	30.0562	29.9909
JP Yen	0.3293	0.3279	0.3272
ACTOR SUPERAL	Se	lling	
Name	of TT	& O.D.	B.C.

Name of Currency	T.T.& O.D.	B.C.		
US Dollar	46.5098	46.5495		
GB Pound	77.7257	77.7920		
D.Mark	25.8688	25.8909		
F Franc	7.7203	7.7268		
C.Dollar	31.8778	31.9050		
S Franc	30.7414	30.7677		
JP. Yen	0.3387	0.3390		
		man expellence prefiles		

A) TT (DOC) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk. 46.0551 B) Usance Rate

60 90 120 180 . Days Days Days Days 45.6757 45.2911 44.9065 44.5219 43.7528 C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as OD sight export bill buying rate. Indicative Rate

Selling	Buying
12.4003	12.2262
12.6633	12.48525
151.8439	149.5776
22.8325	22.5082
5.8279	5.7408
11.3162	11.1177
27.5695	27.1364
	12.4003 12.6633 151.8439 22.8325 5.8279 11.3162

#### goods abroad to surmount its financial crisis, but the falling value of the Japanese yen was undermining that strategy. serious shock to hit New Zealand's economy since the oil Details of the programme will be revealed in October, but are Exports fell by three per cent in May, and government offilikely to include more personalised service on the ground and in cials expected further decreases in the months ahead. Japan and South Korea compete in key export items, and the weak yen the air. HONG KONG: Hong Kong's top finance official said on Friday makes Japanese goods cheaper overseas. he is willing to defend the local currency's link to the US dollar for it, he said. In June, customs-cleared exports fell to 11.7 billion dollars "The benefits of recent economic reforms, in reducing public at "all reasonable costs." and imports plunged to 7.79 billion dollars, resulting in a 3.92 "I'm quite happy to say at all reasonable costs," Financial Secretary Donald Tsang said, answering questions from re-In the same month last year, South Korea posted 104 million porters about how far he would go to defend Hong Kong's 14-year

in some Asian countries and the lower Kiwi dollar would help Hong Kong is not willing to bear to defend the currency. Pressed by the interviewer, he wouldn't say the government will defend the peg "at all costs." than five years.