

## Exchange Rates

Standard Chartered Bank's foreign exchange rates  
(Indicative) against Taka to clients

Effective on Monday, November 30, 1998

Selling		Currency		Buying	
TT	OD	Clean	OD	Sight	Doc
48.7100	48.7500	USD	46.3150	48.1549	48.0708
80.8050	80.8714	GBP	79.4588	79.1955	79.0572
28.6025	28.6260	DEM	28.1146	28.0215	27.9238
0.3973	0.3976	JPY	0.3874	0.3862	0.3855
34.7110	34.7395	CHF	34.0414	33.9286	33.7979
25.3553	25.3761	NLG	24.9484	24.8657	24.7839
29.5822	29.6065	SGD	29.0599	28.9636	28.8609
8.5178	8.5248	FRF	8.3959	8.3681	8.3491
31.9305	31.9567	CAD	31.2415	31.1380	31.0234
5.9914	5.9963	SEK	5.8957	5.8761	5.8637
31.2718	31.2975	AUD	30.1002	30.0005	29.8039
56.9712	57.0180	ECU	54.6491	54.4680	54.2286
6.2990	6.3042	HKD	6.2310	6.2103	6.2019
13.0227	13.0334	SAR	12.8470	12.8044	12.7923
<b>Usage Export Bills</b>					
TT DOC	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
48.2154	47.9179	47.5208	47.0641	46.5677	45.4558

## Exchange Rates of Some Asian Currencies Against US Dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Bath	Mal Ringgit	Indo Rupiah	Sing Dollar
42.45/60	54.10/20	36.10/15	3.7998/02	7400/7450	1.6541/51

US Dollar	Labor
Buying	Selling
1 Month	3 Months
6 Months	12 Months
Cash Notes	48.15 48.75
TC	48.1 48.7
USD/BDT	48.95
GBP/BDT	81.03 81.32
DEM/BDT	28.81 29.01
CHF/BDT	35.02 35.31

Indicative Forward Cover Selling Rates Against Taka					
1 Month	2 Months	3 Months	4 Months	5 Months	6 Months
USD/BDT	48.95	49.19	49.43	49.67	49.91
GBP/BDT	81.03	81.32	81.59	81.82	82.05
DEM/BDT	28.81	29.01	29.21	29.45	29.59
CHF/BDT	35.02	35.31	35.60	35.89	36.19

**Market Commentary**  
On Monday, a high demand for US dollar prevailed in the interbank market and the dollar traded between BDT 48,6500 and BDT 48,6550. Call money rate was also higher — ranging between 8.25 and 9.25 per cent. Banks offered one unit of US dollar to the importers at BDT 48,75 and purchased the same from exporters at BDT 48,1549. The informal market also experienced increased demand for the greenback. Cash dollar notes traded between BDT 48,80 and 49,00 in the kurb market.

The international market was back in full operation after the weekend. US dollar slipped from its earlier high against yen but may cash in on negative sentiment regarding Japan in the near future.

Dollar was trading at 123-level against yen after Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi repeated that cutting consumption tax by 5 per cent would be difficult for Japan. Possibility of further weak economic data also weighs heavily on yen.

The market was expecting dollar/mark to follow dollar/yen path in a narrower range. The market remained focused on the European interest rates with the European Central Bank (ECB) Council meeting and Bundesbank meeting due on Tuesday and Thursday respectively.

At 1630 hours local time, dollar traded at 1.7062/64 against DEM, 123.10/20 against yen and GBP at 1.6505/15 against US dollar against the Asian opening of 1.7095/05 against DEM, against 123.60/70 yen, GBP at 1.6527/37 against dollar.

— StanChart Bank

The following are the Sonali Bank's dealing rates (BDT per one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 30th Nov '98.

Buying		Selling	
Name of	T.T. & O.D.	B.C.	Name of
US Dlr	48.3500	48.1600	48.0600
GB Pound	79.4460	79.1338	78.9694
D Mark	28.1203	28.0098	27.9517

## Military Engineer Services Notice of Tender

1. Applications are invited by DW & CE (Air) Kurmitola, Dhaka Cantt to issue of tender documents for the following works including ancillary works. Application for the respective work must be submitted within 07 (seven) days from the publishing date:

a. Constr of 2.13 M height boundary wall and barbed wire fencing with Y-angle on north side of northern Taxi Truck at Tejgaon Old Airport area, Dhaka.

b. Constr of Flying Sqn Bldg for Transport Air Craft at Tejgaon area, Dhaka.

c. Constr of 1xM1-17 Helicopter Hanger at Tejgaon area, Dhaka.

d. Provn of 1x350 KVA Generator including electric line for VIP lounge, ATC Tower Air Movement, Tarmac, Hanger, Mosque and adjoining areas at Tejgaon, Dhaka.

e. Constr of AB Armament Flight Bldg at BAF Base Zahirul Haque, Chittagong.

f. Constr of ware house with high raised platform for Supply Sqn at BAF Base Zahirul Haque, Chittagong.

g. Constr of 1x4 BOQ including ante room & kitchen at 74 Sqn of BAF Base Zahirul Haque at Chittagong.

h. Constr of 1xStore with high raised platform for Officers Mess at BAF Base Zahirul Haque, Chittagong.

j. Constr of 1st floor over existing Flying Training Wing Bldg at BAF Base Matiur Rahman, Jessor.

k. Constr of FIS Office Bldg at BAF Base Matiur Rahman, Jessor.

l. Constr of Armament Sqn Bldg at BAF Base, Paharkanchpur.

m. Constr of Foot-path around Perimeter fencing at BAF Base Paharkanchpur.

n. Constr of 1x12 Bay light vehicle MT garage including ancillary works at Air HQ Supply Sqn area, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

o. Constr of 1x12 Bay heavy vehicle MT garage with tyre store & tyre repair shop, MT Ops store including ancillary works at Air HQ MT Sqn area, Tejgaon.

p. Provn of air conditioner, supply & installation of electric Generator and gas connection including ancillary works for ACOC Bldg at Dhaka Cantt.

q. Constr of 1xSM Bk (with 3 storied fdn) including ancillary works for 40 Airmen of MT Driving School at Shamshe Nagar.

r. Constr of cook house/Dining hall (providing fdn for recreation room at 1st floor) including ancillary works for 40 Airmen of MT Driving School at Shamshe Nagar.

s. Constr of MT Simulator room (with 3 storied fdn) including ancillary works for MT Driving School at Shamshe Nagar.

t. Supply & installation of 250-KVA transformer including HT & LT line for electric connection to Radar Ops Complex at RCC Bogra.

u. Constr of remaining boundary wall with grill at RCC Bogra.

v. Constr of ground & 1st floor of Admin Bldg for AMI (with 4 storied fdn) including furniture & ancillary works at Kurmitola.

2. Contractors enlisted in MES as 'A', 'B' & 'C' class may apply for tender documents. They should spell out their class of enlistment, Index No & formation in the application.

3. VAT registration certificate (true copy) must be enclosed with their application.

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G-2700

DW & CE (Air) Kurmitola

# BJP rout in state polls leaves economy at cross-roads

BOMBAY, Nov 30: The rout of the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) in state elections could push the Indian government in either of two ways towards a rush of measures to revive the economy or a complete stop to reforms, analysts said.

A measure seeking to allow foreign investors into India's state controlled insurance sector had so far proved politically daunting as the trade unions were fiercely opposed to it.

But another possibility is that if the BJP wins it would be useful to call mid-term elections in that case they would like to take some quick decisions, Tendulkar said.

They will initiate action and then sell to the electorate saying this is our unfinished job, bring us back which one of the two extremes will happen is not clear, he said.

Sonia Gandhi, leader of the Congress Party which trounced

the BJP in the elections, said on Sunday it was too early to launch a challenge to the BJP-led coalition government.

Economists watching the markets in Bombay said the result had increased fears of political instability and this would scare away foreign investors.

If it looks like the central government will be destabilised after the state elections foreign investors may choose to put their investment decision on hold, said an analyst at a US based securities firm who asked not to be named.

Political scientist Rajini Kohari predicted a debilitating phase of instability pointing out that the BJP-led government could not be toppled because parliament was so fractured that no one else would be able to form the government.

But analysts cast doubt on the full year estimated citing slowing industrial output and unseasonal rains they say GDP is likely to increase by just 5.0-5.5 per cent.

— AP/UNI

NEW DELHI, Nov 30: As stumping defeat in crucial state elections casting shadows on his federal government, Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee Sunday reassured foreign investors India's political shakeups were not going to affect economic reforms, reports AP.

"Do not be overly influenced by the democratic drama of the day," Vajpayee told hundreds of Indian and foreign business leaders as he inaugurated the India Economic Summit organized by the World Economic Forum.

The volatility of Indian democracy will have no fundamental impact on the process of economic reforms in the country," he said, adding that the government had "depoliticised the economic agenda."

Vajpayee's Bharatiya Janata Party suffered a series of embarrassing setbacks in the elections to four state assemblies — it lost its governments in New Delhi, where the federal capital is located, and the western Rajasthan state. Despite favourable exit polls, the BJP could not dislodge the ruling Congress Party in the central state of Madhya Pradesh.

A BJP debacle was expected to increase Vajpayee's difficulties within the 19-party ruling coalition, though several of its partners said Sunday they would still back the party.

Sonia Gandhi, president of the main opposition Congress Party, said her group would wait for the coalition to crumble on its own, rather than make an immediate attempt to regain power.

The first impact of the election results on the markets would be seen Monday when

trading begins after the weekend closure, but corporate leaders acknowledged that domestic and foreign investors were apprehensive. The government had announced several radical reform measures during the past two months.

Dhruv Sawhney, former president of the Confederation of Indian Industry, said several important bills related to the economy were waiting for parliament approval — including a proposal to partially open up the lucrative insurance sector to foreign investors.

"One does not know their fate with this political uncertainty," Sawhney was quoted as saying by Press Trust of India.

India's economy is currently struggling with a slowdown.

The provisional trade deficit widened to \$5 billion during April-September, the first half of the fiscal year ending March 31, compared with \$2.5 billion in the same period a year earlier, according to the Commerce Ministry.

Exports fell