

Manila summit adopts 16-point declaration

Asia seeks WB, ADB fund to tackle Y2K

MANILA, Mar 4: Eighteen Asia-Pacific nations and economies on Wednesday appealed for funding from the World Bank, Asian Development Bank and other international financial institutions to rid the region of the millennium bug, reports Reuters.

They made the appeal in a 16-point Manila Declaration summing up the action they had agreed on during the three-day second global Y2K summit in the Philippine capital.

The millennium bug, called Y2K, is a programming flaw in

computers that may cause them to crash on January 1, 2000, causing widespread confusion and chaos.

"It is agreed that the nations and economies of the Asian region...call upon the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and other organisations and countries to review and increase their level of support for national and regional Y2K efforts," said the declaration issued at the end of the meeting.

McConnel said there was still no estimate of the total Y2K costs for the region.

Amable Aguiluz, Chairman of the Philippine Commission

on

Year 2000

compliance, said Asian economies could use available World Bank lending windows for developing countries, which include a grant of 500,000 dollars from the United Kingdom and the United States.

The declaration said the Y2K bug was not a mere technical problem arising from a computer glitch "but a societal management problem."

If not addressed, it will adversely affect the delivery of essential services in critical sectors of society, including power, telecommunications, finance, transport, and health," the statement said.

Delegates agreed that because of the interconnected nature of systems, regional cooperation and the participation of international sector organisations was essential to assure the continued functioning of critical sectors in the new millennium.

They also vowed to increase information sharing across borders on Y2K readiness, practices, lessons, systems as well as failures.

The declaration was signed by Bhutan, Bangladesh, China, Fiji, Guam, India, Indonesia, Japan, Jordan, Korea, Mongolia, Nepal, Palau, Philippines, Syria, Thailand, United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam.

The real closed at 2.14 to the

dollar, after slipping to 2.20 earlier in the day. It had closed

Tuesday at 2.17.

Since the government stopped its policy of supporting the real in January the currency has lost 45 per cent of its value.



Partex Group Vice-Chairman Aziz-Al-Kaisar hands over prizes to the distributors, field workers and officers of Danish Condensed Milk Bangladesh Ltd, a sister organisation of the Group, at a function in the city on Thursday.

— Danish Condensed Milk photo

RHD Short Notice Inviting Tenders

1. Tender Notice No : 25/SDR/1998-99.
2. Name of work : Construction of flexible pavement at different KM of Kalkali-Talikona road under Sunamganj Road Division, during the year 1998-99. In 3 (three) groups (Ch to 266-Dev).
3. Estimated cost : As per group list.
4. Earnest money : As per group list.
5. Time allowed : As per group list.
6. Eligibility of contractors : As per group list.
7. Name of the offices where tender documents will be available : Undersigned/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Sylhet/M'Bazar/Habiganj/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Bridge Design Division-1 (West), Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Sunamganj/Chhatak/Mechanical, Sunamganj.
8. Name of the officers who received the tenders : Undersigned/Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Sylhet/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka.
9. Tender will be opened by : Undersigned.
10. Last date of selling tenders : At 5:00 PM of 09-03-99.
11. Last date of receiving tenders : At 12:30 PM of 10-03-99.
12. Date & time of opening : At 12:30 PM of 14-03-99.
13. Date & time of lottery (if : At 1:00 PM of 16-03-99. necessary)
14. Group list :

Gr No	Name of work & location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractors
I	Construction of flexible Tk 41,96,610/- (one) pavement at 1st(P) KM of Kalkali-Talikona road.	83,932/-	40 (forty) days	"A" to "C" general categories of RHD	
II	-do- at 2nd KM -do-	Tk 46,48,558/-	Tk 92,971/-	-do-	-do-
III	-do- at 3rd KM -do-	Tk 46,62,903/-	92,258/-	-do-	-do-

Ali Ahmed Chowdhury
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Sunamganj Road Division.

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RHD Short Notice Inviting Tenders

1. Tender Notice No : 27/SDR/1998-99.
2. Name of work : Earth work in road embankment of flood damaged road at different KM of Pagla-Jagannathpur-Raniganj-Awushkandi road under Sunamganj Road Division during the year 1998-99 in V(five) groups. (Ch to 266 Dev).
3. Estimated cost : As per group list.
4. Earnest money : As per group list.
5. Time allowed : As per group list.
6. Eligibility of contractors : As per group list.
7. Name of the offices where tender documents will be available : Office of the Undersigned/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Sylhet/M'Bazar/Habiganj/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Bridge Design Division-1 (West), Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Sunamganj/Chhatak/Mechanical, Sunamganj.
8. Name of the officers who received the tenders : Undersigned/Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Sylhet/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka.
9. Tender will be opened by : Undersigned Office.
10. Last date of selling tenders : At 5:00 PM of 09-03-99.
11. Last date of receiving tenders : At 12:30 PM of 10-03-99.
12. Date & time of opening : At 12:30 PM of 14-03-99.
13. Date & time of lottery (if : At 1:00 PM of 16-03-99.
14. Group list :

Gr No	Name of work & location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractors
I	Earth work in road embankment at 32nd (one) KM of Pagla-Jagannathpur-Raniganj-Awushkandi road.	Tk 20,78,865/-	41,578/-	50 (fifty) days	"A" to "D" general categories of RHD
II	-do- at 33rd KM -do-	Tk 21,27,600/-	42,552/-	-do-	-do-
III	-do- at 34th KM -do-	Tk 21,70,608/-	43,413/-	-do-	-do-
IV	-do- at 35th KM -do-	Tk 20,90,580/-	41,812/-	-do-	-do-
V	-do- at 36th KM -do-	Tk 19,75,460/-	39,510/-	-do-	-do-

Ali Ahmed Chowdhury
Executive Engineer (RHD)
Sunamganj Road Division.

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Brazil Congress okays Central Bank chief

RIO DE JANEIRO, Mar 4: Brazil's Congress on Wednesday approved Arminio Fraga as president of the country's Central Bank, says AP.

Fraga, 41, a former associate of billionaire financier George Soros was nominated to the post Feb 2. He was confirmed president after a 57-20 vote in his favour by the Senate Wednesday.

The new president is to chair a meeting Thursday to set interest rates, currently at 39 per cent. Market participants hope he will provide a glimpse of what he plans to do.

Many Brazilians are frustrated at the apparent lack of progress at fixing the country's battered economy. Talks with the International Monetary Fund on an agreement for a \$4.5 billion loan package have dragged on longer than expected.

There is also a sense that the remedy may kill the patient.

Last week, Fraga said interest rates must remain high in the short term to prevent the devaluation from reviving inflation.

Yet high interest rates are swelling the public-sector deficit and further eroding investor confidence.

Before Fraga's appointment, Brazil's currency rallied late Wednesday. Traders said the Central Bank moved to prop it up.

The real closed at 2.14 to the dollar, after slipping to 2.20 earlier in the day. It had closed Tuesday at 2.17.

Since the government stopped its policy of supporting the real in January the currency has lost 45 per cent of its value.

Reforms in IMF, World Bank schemes suggested

UK proposes \$50b Third World debt cut by 2000

LONDON, Mar 4: British Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown yesterday unveiled proposals to reduce Third World debt by 50 billion dollars (45 billion euros) by 2000 via reforms of World Bank and International Monetary Fund debt relief schemes, reports AFP.

Brown also said that the IMF should sell a billion dollars worth of its gold reserves as part of the drive to ease the crippling debt burden of the poorest countries.

This will require a mobilisation of the world community, international organisations, governments in the developed and developing world, charitable organisations and individuals," Brown said as he unveiled his blueprint for easing the debt burden.

The plans include calls for developed countries to increase their aid programmes to 60 billion dollars.

This money should be spent largely on health and education initiatives, said Brown.

The UK will go into the millennium with targets to increase debt relief, international development assistance and charitable giving to the world's poorest countries," said Brown after unveiling his plans to British religious leaders.

The chancellor said that he would offer charities tax advantages as part of a drive to achieve a sharp increase in aid payments from charities to the developing world. he hoped that

charity relief would reach one billion dollars by the end of 2000.

The British treasury said that total debt owed by the 40 poorest countries was about 200 billion dollars.

Last month, French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss Kahn laid out plans to cancel debt interest payments from these poorest countries for 30 years.

The group of seven most industrial nations, grouping Britain, France, the United States, Japan, Canada, Germany and Italy, have pledged to find common ground and concrete proposals to help the

world's poorest countries by the time of their June summit in the German city of Cologne.

The G7 commitment comes amid an upturn in public pressure on governments to reduce the debt burden of the world's poorest countries.

Sports stars such as boxing legend Muhammad Ali, artists such as Bono, singer of Irish Rockers U2, as well as Christian and secular groups have all joined together under a British organisation jubilee 2000, to campaign for a one-off cancellation of all unpaid Third World debts to mark the new millennium.

Russia needs new IMF aid to save economy

LONDON, Mar 4: Only a new lifeline from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) can save Russia's struggling economic situation while reducing wage arrears," he was quoted as saying by the Financial Times newspaper.

"But it is clear that without this agreement (a new IMF loan) the whole conception of our budget policies will be destroyed and we will be in a very different economic and political situation he said in comments on Tuesday.

RHD Short Notice Inviting Tenders

1. Tender Notice No : 26/SDR/1998-99.
2. Name of work : Protective work in piers & abutments of bridges at different KM of Pagla-Jagannathpur-Raniganj-Awushkandi Road under Sunamganj Road Division during the year 1998-99. In 2 (two) groups. (Ch to 266-Dev).
3. Estimated cost : As per group list.
4. Earnest money : As per group list.
5. Time allowed : As per group list.
6. Eligibility of contractors : Undersigned/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Sylhet/M'Bazar/Habiganj/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Bridge Design Division-1 (West), Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Sunamganj/Chhatak/Mechanical, Sunamganj.
7. Name of the offices where tender documents will be available : Undersigned/Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Sylhet/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka.
8. Name of the officers who received the tenders : Undersigned/Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Sylhet/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka.
9. Tender will be opened by : Undersigned.
10. Last date of selling tenders : At 5:00 PM of 09-03-99.
11. Last date of receiving tenders : At 12:30 PM of 10-03-99.
12. Date & time of opening : At 12:30 PM of 14-03-99.
13. Date & time of lottery (if : At 1:00 PM of 16-03-99. necessary)
14. Group list :

Gr No	Name of road & location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractors
I	Protective work in piers & abutments of bridge at 12th KM 12/1 gap of Pagla-Jagannathpur-Raniganj-Awushkandi Road.	Tk 33,78,643/-	67,573/-	30 (thirty) days	"A" to "C" general categories of RHD
II	-do- at 18th KM 18/1 gap of Tk 10,75,066/-	Tk 21,501/-	10 (ten) days	"A" to "D"	general categories of RHD

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RHD Short Notice Inviting Tenders

1. Tender Notice No : 24/SDR/1998-99.
2. Name of work : Construction of flexible pavement work by widening, HBB & protective work at different KM of Pagla-Jagannathpur-Raniganj-Awushkandi Road, under Sunamganj Road Division, during the year 1998-99. In 5 (five) groups (Ch to 266-Dev).
3. Estimated cost : As per group list.
4. Earnest money : As per group list.
5. Time allowed : As per group list.
6. Eligibility of contractors : Undersigned/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Sylhet/M'Bazar/Habiganj/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Bridge Design Division-1 (West), Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Sunamganj/Chhatak/Mechanical, Sunamganj.
7. Name of the offices where tender documents will be available : Undersigned/Addl Chief Engineer (RHD), Comilla Zone, Comilla/Divisional Commissioner, Sylhet/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Sylhet/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Dhaka.
8. Name of the officers who received the tenders : Undersigned.
9. Tender will be opened by : At 5:00 PM of 09-03-99.
10. Last date of selling tenders : At 12:30 PM of 10-03-99.
11. Last date of receiving tenders : At 12:30 PM of 14-03-99.
12. Date & time of opening : At 12:30 PM of 14-03-99.
13. Date & time of lottery (if : At 1:00 PM of 16-03-99. necessary)
14. Group list :

Gr No	Name of work & location	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed	Eligibility of contractors

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