

## 'ROK shaking off crisis impact'

CANBERRA, May 3: South Korea is shaking off the effects of the Asian financial crisis faster than Thailand, Malaysia and Indonesia, the other hard-hit countries, according to a new Australian report released Monday, says AP.

The report, titled 'Korea Rebuilds From Crisis to Opportunity', was produced by Australia's diplomatic service and gives credit to the Kim Dae-jung regime for economic reforms.

President Kim Dae-jung and his coalition partners have acted decisively to implement the IMF agreement, resolve the financial sector crisis and undertake other structural reforms in the corporate sector and labour market, the report says.

It says the Korean government had tackled weaknesses in the economy with reforms to the country's financial sector, corporate governance and debt structure, foreign exchange regime, labour markets and its international trade regime.

The report, launched by Trade Minister Tim Fischer, in Sydney predicts that South Korea will emerge from the Asian

economic crisis with growth rates of 6 per cent a year.

South Korea is Australia's third largest export market after Japan and the United States, and its fourth largest trading partner overall.

Two-way trade between the two countries now exceeds 10 billion US dollars a year.

The department notes that the South Korean economy had been growing prodigiously until the regional economic crisis hit in July 1997.

"Since the early 1960s, per capita income has doubled every eight years, rising from 80 US dollars to 10,000 US dollars in 1996," the report says.

Averaged economic growth was 8 per cent a year over that time.

"Weak prudential supervision of financial institutions and restricted financial market and corporate competition created moral hazard."

"Banks and corporates believed they would not be held accountable for their actions," it says.

The report warns that South Korea's troubles are not over yet.

## IPPs agree to cut power tariffs in Pakistan

KARACHI, May 3: A bitter dispute between Pakistan's government and independent power producers (IPPs) is close to being settled after the firms agreed to reduce charges payable by the government, officials say, reports AFP.

The majority of IPPs have agreed in principle to reduce the charge for unpurchased electricity from 60 to 40 per cent an official of the state-run Water and Power Development Authority (WAPDA) told AFP.

Under power purchase agreements WAPDA is obliged to buy all the electricity generated by IPPs. If it fails to do so it must pay for the remaining portion at rates linked to a plant's generation capacity and other factors.

"This is a breakthrough which paves the way for an early settlement," the WAPDA official said.

The state-run agency has accumulated huge arrears on payments due for unpurchased electricity, creating a default

situation sources said.

Negotiations between WAPDA and the IPPs resumed early this month after Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif asked the agency to take over the task from a committee which failed to make headway.

Two WAPDA teams are currently negotiating with the IPPs and with a visiting delegation of British National Power plc.

The British firm runs a 1,290-megawatt power plant owned by Hubco, a consortium including Saudi, Japanese, US, Malaysian and French companies, besides the operator itself.

The Hubco plant is in Baluchistan province and the British company also runs another 1,500 megawatt plant at Kot Addu in Punjab.

About 20 IPPs set up power plants in Pakistan with investments totalling more than three billion dollars under contracts signed during the government of Benazir Bhutto in 1994, who was sacked as pre-

mier in 1996.

"Talks are taking place with all these IPPs," the WAPDA official said.

About half a dozen of the projects were already producing power while others were in various stages of implementation, WAPDA sources said.

The feud with the IPPs erupted last year when the government asked IPPs to bring down tariffs, alleging that export rates were secured through bribery and corruption.

The IPPs denied any malpractice and the government came under pressure from foreign donors and international lending institutions to settle the row and restore investor confidence.

The government then withdrew notices of termination of contracts it had issued to several IPPs.

And in March it announced that six of the IPPs had agreed to reduce their power tariffs

from 6.5 to 5.6 cents per kilowatt hour.

Economist and stock broker Arif Habib said it was in the interests of both parties as well as the stock market to resolve the problem swiftly.

Saqib Masood, analyst at Dutch First Capital ABN-AMRO Equities in Karachi, said he expected an early settlement amid mounting pressure from creditors including the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund.

He said WAPDA was paying more than 16 million dollars a month to Hubco alone. "It will provide a big relief to WAPDA if this amount is reduced," he said.

Masood said Hubco was also under pressure from its creditors and shareholders to pay a return on the investment.

Hubco and WAPDA agreed last month to resolve the issue through talks instead of litigation, a move hailed by investors.

## Asian currencies close mixed

SINGAPORE, May 3: Asian currencies ended mixed against the US dollar today, as some units led by the rupiah benefited from foreign fund inflows which boosted stock markets in the region amid a long Japanese market holiday, dealers and analysts said, reports AFP.

"The regional currencies will stop taking the lead from Japan at least until Wednesday," said Jacqueline Ong, an analyst with international financial house IDEA.

She said foreign fund inflows into the region were benefiting currencies and stock markets.

The Indonesian rupiah ended trade here at 7,940 per US dollar from its close of 8,220

last Friday.

Indonesia's top economics minister Ginanjar Kartasasmita attributed the rupiah's strength to factors such as the recent implementation of a bank recapitalisation programme and the start of corporate debt restructuring.

"I'm optimistic the rupiah can come down into the 7,000 range. Our fiscal target is 7,500. Maybe that can be achieved," he said in Jakarta.

Analysts said Singapore's upward revision of 1999 economic growth to a high of 2.0 per cent, from 1.0 per cent, boosted sentiment but fears of intervention if the local dollar became too strong would cur any currency strength.

## BIA course on sales, marketing begins today

A training course on "Sales and Marketing" arranged by Bangladesh Insurance Academy (BIA) for Development Officers of Jiban Bima Corporation will begin at the BIA Bhaban in the city today, says a press release.

Thirty-one Development Officers will take part in the course which will conclude on May 17.

K M Mortuza Ali, Director of the academy, is likely to inaugurate the course.

Meanwhile, a training course on "Policy Servicing and Claim Settlement on Life Insurance" organised by the Academy was held in Chittagong recently. Another training course on "Office Discipline and Management" started at the BIA on April 20 which will end tomorrow.



Sri Lanka President Chandrika Kumaratunga speaks into a computer microphone yesterday in Colombo as she launches a state-run e-commerce site on the internet. The web site seeks to provide information on Sri Lanka to potential investors, both local and foreign.

— AFP photo



## Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers for: 1. Journal of Consulting and Clinical Psychology, 1993-98 issues. 2. Clinical Psychology Review, 1995-98 issues. 3. Journal of Clinical Child Psychology, 1995-98 issues. & 4. Journal of Indian Clinical Psychology, 1995-98 issues. Closing date: 10.5.99.

Chairman, Clinical Psychology Department, Arts Building Room No. 4004, Dhaka University, Dhaka-1000. C-344

## Indonesia's cocoa output may rise by 6.5pc

JAKARTA, May 3: The Indonesian Cocoa Association (Askindo) estimates the country's cocoa production in the year to October will rise by 6.5 per cent to 330,000 tonnes compared to the previous year, a report said here Monday, reports AFP.



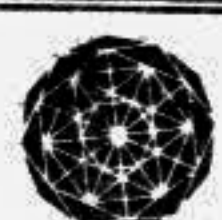
## Invitation for Bids (3rd Invitation)

- The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has decided to rehabilitate Ghorasal Unit number 1 and 2 (each 55 MW) Thermal Power Plants on turn-key basis under supplier's credit from CIS countries.
- The Bangladesh Power Development Board now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the following rehabilitation works of Ghorasal Power Plant Unit 1 & 2 on turn-key basis including the inspection, dismantling, repair, assembling, design, manufacture of required spares, consumables etc., supply and transportation to designated sites in Bangladesh, any required civil/structural work, erection, painting, completion, modification, overhaul, testing, commissioning up to provisional acceptance, training of operation and maintenance personnel and guarantee services during an 18 (eighteen) months guarantee period and final acceptance with the following brief scope of works:
  - Complete rehabilitation/modification of boiler and its auxiliaries.
  - Complete rehabilitation/modification and overhauling of turbine and its auxiliaries.
  - Complete rehabilitation/modification and overhauling of generator and its auxiliaries.
  - Design, supply of materials, erection of equipment, construction, testing and commissioning of symphonic structure from river to pump house no. 1.
  - Rehabilitation/modification/overhauling of circulating water system including pumps.
  - Rehabilitation/modification of all other mechanical, chemical & electrical equipment and civil works of 2 units.
  - Rehabilitation/modification/modernization and overhauling of I & C equipment.
  - Supply of necessary spares & materials and consumable.
- All works shall be completed within a time period of 20 (twenty) months after effective date of contract.
- Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from the office of the Manager (Maintenance), Ghorasal Power Station, Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB), Palash, Narsingdi, Bangladesh.
- A complete set of bidding documents will be available for purchase by any interested eligible bidder with effect from 9-5-99 on the submission of a written application to the Director, Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th floor), Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka, Bangladesh and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 10,000 (Taka ten thousand) only in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft favouring of "Director, Purchase, BPD, Dhaka, Bangladesh."
- Interested bidders may visit the aforesaid Power Station. Before visiting Power Station the bidder shall obtain necessary government permission.
- Two-envelope bidding procedure will be followed. One envelope marked "Technical Proposal" will consist of Technical Bid only, without any reference to price and the other envelope marked "Financial Proposal" will consist of "Financial Bid."
- Both Technical Proposal and Financial Proposal must be delivered to:
  - The Secretary, Bangladesh Power Development Board
  - Motijheel Commercial Area
  - Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh
 not later than 11.00 AM local time on June 10, 1999. The Technical Proposal will be opened immediately thereafter in public in presence of the bidders' representatives, if any.
- The Technical Proposal must be accompanied by a bid bond of the sum not less than US\$ 500,000 (US dollar five hundred thousand) only in the form of an irrevocable and unconditional Bank Guarantee issued by any scheduled bank of Bangladesh or by a foreign bank duly endorsed by a scheduled bank in Bangladesh payable in favour of the 'Secretary, BPDB'.

Secretary

Bangladesh Power Development Board  
Dhaka, Bangladesh  
Fax: 880-2-9564765.

Biddut/Jana/1519(4)/98-99  
GD-352



## BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইআই'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অর্থগতির প্রতীক

Managing Director, Karnaphuli Paper Mills Limited, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong invites sealed quotation on C&F (C) Chittagong basis under any suitable source of financing for the following items under two-envelope system:

Tender No.	Materials	Opening date	Cost of tender
1. F/44/MPIC-69/38/99/POP	Aluminium Hydrate — 300 MT	26.5.99	Tk 300/-
2. F/45/MPIC-01/43/99/POP	Paraffin Wax — 30 MT	26.5.99	Tk 250/-
3. F/1PT/06D/PML-810/95/POP	Caustic (Solution) Supply Pump	26.5.99	Tk 50/-

The quotation duly supported by 1% (min Tk 1000/-) earnest money will be received up to 11:00 AM in the mentioned date and will be opened immediately thereafter in presence of the tenderers if any. The tender document on cash payment may be obtained from (a) Dy Chief Accountant, Karnaphuli Paper Mills Ltd, 92, Sadarghat Road, Chittagong and (b) Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha Com Area, Dhaka on all working days. No tender document will be sold on the date of opening.

BCIC 341-22/4/99  
DIP-8949-26/4

G-775

## Roads & Highways Department Notice Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice Number: 105 BRD of the year 1998-99.
- Name of work: Earth-work on culvert and bridge approach and HBB repair work on different km of Dinarepool Khayerhe-Nalua road under Barisal Road Division during 1998-99 year/sloven plaster and painting at the residence of Superintending Engineer.
- Estimated cost: As per group list.
- Earnest money: -/-
- Time for completion of work: -/-
- Eligibility for submission of tender: -/-
- Offices where tender schedule will be available: Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Barisal/ Patuakhali/Bhola/ Peropur/Barguna/Jhalakathi, Sub-Divisional Engineer, R&H Road Sub-Division-1/2, Barisal/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Barisal on all working days excepting holidays during office hours. No tender form will be sold on the day of opening tender.

8. Last date and time of selling tender schedule: 9-5-99 till 5:00 PM.

9. Offices of the officials where tenders will be received in sealed condition: Superintending Engineer, R&H Barisal Road Circle, Barisal/Executive Engineer, R&H Road Division, Barisal/Jhalakathi/Peropur.

10. Last date and time of receiving tenders in sealed condition: 10-5-99 till 12:30 PM.

11. Date and time of filing tender in sealed condition: 10-5-99 at 12:45 PM.

12. Place, date and time of opening tender: Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H Barisal Road Division on 11-5-99 at 11:00 AM.

13. Date and time of lottery: 13-5-99 at 11:00 AM.

Gr No	Name of work and site	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time for completion of work	Head of expenditure	Eligibility of contractors to submit tenders
1	Work of earth filling on the 14th, 17th and 20th km of the culvert and bridge approach on Dinarepool-Khayerhe-Nalua road under Barisal Road Division during 1998-99 fiscal year.	Tk 1,95,366/=	Tk 3,807/=	-/-	-/-	'A' to 'C' general category of Roads and Highways Department, 'D' class general category of Barisal Road Circle and 'E' class of Barisal Road Division enlisted contractors
2	Work of repair of HBB pavement on the 14th (part), 15th (part), 16th (part), 17th (part) and 19th (part) km of Dinarepool-Khayerhe-Nalua road under Barisal Road Division during 1998-99 year.	Tk 2,96,802/=	Tk 5,936/=	-/-	-/-	-/-
3	Painting, distemper and sloven, plastic paint in the residence of the Superintending Engineer, R&H Barisal Road Division during 1998-99 year	Tk 98,112/=	Tk 1,962/=	168, road bridge, kheyghat	-/-	-/-

Md Abdus Sattar  
Executive Engineer, R&H  
Barisal Road Division.

DIP-8678-25/4  
G-773

## Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to clients.					
Currency	Selling TT OD	Selling BC	Buying T.T Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	48.7300	48.7700	48.3100	48.1570	48.0850
Pound Stg	78.6746	78.7392	77.4892	77.2438	77.1283
Deutsche Mark	26.7590	26.7809	25.7750	25.6934	25.6449
Swiss Franc	32.1120	32.1384	31.6165	31.5164	31.4692
Japanese Yen	0.4036	0.4090	0.4016	0.4003	0.3997
Dutch Guilder	23.7491	23.7685	22.8757	22.8033	22.7692
Danish Krona	6.9324	6.9681	6.8312	6.8095	6.7993
Australian \$	32.7514	32.7783	31.4788	31.3791	31.3322
Belgian Franc	1.2574	1.2984	1.2497	1.2457	1.2438
Canadian \$	33.9098	33.8375	32.8126	32.7087	32.6598
French Franc	7.7000	7.0001	7.6852	7.6608	7.6104
Hong Kong \$	6.2991	6.3043	6.2208	6.2006	6.1913
Italian Lira	0.0270	0.0271	0.0260	0.0260	0.0259
Norway Kroner	6.2779	6.2831	6.1698	6.1502	6.1410
Singapore \$	29.0457	29.0696	28.1095	28.0194	27.9775
Saudi Rial	13.0301	13.0408	12.8457	12.8050	12.7558
UAE Dirham	18.0040	18.0150	13.1107	13.0751	13.0556
Swedish Krona	5.7943	5.7990	5.7185	5.7004	5.6919
Qatari Rial	13.4254	13.4364	13.2313	13.1894	13.1696
Kuwaiti Dinar	165.1864	165.3220	152.8797	152.3956	152.1677
Thai Baht	1.3176	1.3186	1.3034	1.2993	1.2973
Euro	52.3360	52.3790	50.4115	50.2518	50.1767

### Bill buying rates

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
US Dollar	47.9074	47.5048	47.1023	46.6997	46.8945

US Dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)					
Buying	Selling	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months
48.0850	48.7300	USD	4.9025	4.9875	5.0425
48.0850	48.7300	GBP	5.3325	5.3325	5.3444
Cash/TC	Cash/TC	Euro	2.5698	2.5835	2.6075

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars					
Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
42.7842/785	50.8850/715	37.02/37.07	3.7998/3.8003	7960/7980	1190/1190.5

**Amex notes on Monday's market**  
The interbank USD/BDT market was rather stable compared to earlier days as hike in call rates kept the dollar demand low. Also, improved supply situation by participation from nationalised banks was able to meet up the requirements of the interbank market to a larger extent, as a result USD/BDT rates ranged between 48.6500-48.6650, with most of the deals done at 48.6500-48.6550.

Call money market was very volatile as payments for Government accepted T-bills worth Tk 4.05 billion were made today against maturity of Tk 3.00 billion approximately. Mismatch between T-bills payments and maturity and also Government payments made by nationalised banks drained out liquidity from the market. The call rates shot up 11.00%. The call market opened at 8.00-8.50% and reached 10.00% before clearing. After the first clearing house it went up to 11.00%, though most of the deals were done at around 9.50%-10.50%.

The dollar was dragging its feet in slow midday trade in Asian trade on Monday as Japan's Golden Week break kept activity to a bare minimum. Dealers said the US currency looked well supported, but was likely to make slow progress in Asia with few fresh leads expected from Europe due to a holiday in Britain.

The dollar stood at 119.72/75 yen at 0446 GMT against its New York close at 119.40/50. The Euro was at \$1.0583/88 against \$1.0568/75.

Unexpectedly strong US first quarter growth and the continuing conflict in Kosovo were likely to keep the dollar underpinned, analysts said. The US economy grew at an annualised rate of 4.5 per cent in the first quarter of 1999, far exceeding consensus estimates for a 3.3 per cent.

Dealers commented that the market would be cautious about taking aggressive positions in dollar/yen ahead of a meeting between US President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi in Washington on Monday.

Speculation that Japan might come up with supplementary stimulus measures in the face of US pressure to boost its economy would protect the yen's downside. The Euro was holding up mainly due to a lack of impetus to push it lower after it reached a new low of \$1.0541 in New York.

At 8.03 GMT the majors traded against US\$ at 119.64/119.69 JPY, 1.5210/1.5215 CHF, Euro at \$1.0591/1.0596 and GBP at \$1.6107/1.6112.

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 3-5-99						
Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Pacific Seles	GI(Peas)	Kona	Seaglor	12/4	8/5
J/3	Feng Tao	Sugar(G)	Bang	Seaglor	20/4	7/5
J/4	Darya Ma	Wheat(P)/GI	Cal	MSA	26/3	3/5
J/5	Pacific Bridge	Gr	Sing	MSA	7/4	3/5
J/6	Seamajesty	Gr	Busa	Prog	20/4	7/5
J/7	You Yue	Rice(G)	Kand	USTC	28/2	12/5
J/8	Tiaestels	Rice(G)	Kand	USTC	20/4	13/5
J/9	Xiang Jiang	Gr	Sing	Bdsip	17/4	7/5
J/10	Achiever	Cont	Sing	RSL	29/4	4/5
J/11	Al Quamar	Rice(G)	Viza	BSL	17/4	4/5
J/12	Dragon Brant	Cont	Sing	NOL	28/4	4/5
J/13	Van Dyck	Wheat(P)	Teki	MSA	6/4	12/5
CCT/1	Dragon Kalimantan	Cont	Sing	NOL	27/4	4/5
CCT/2	Bunglar Robi (Flag)	Cont	Sing	BSC	1/5	6/5
GSJ	Banglar Asha	Wheat(G)	Jedd	USTC	28/4	3/5
TSP	Meghna	RPhos	Jedd	BSC	1/5	6/5
DDJ	Humber	Cement	Jaka	Able	26/4	10/5
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/4	7/5
RM/8	AA Venture	Repair	Kaka	CLA	11/3	10/5
RM/9	Banglar Moni	Repair	-	BSC	RA/4	15/5
CUFLU	Mary Nour	Cement	Lank	BSL	28/4	10.5
KafoCo	Atlantic Fortune	Urea	Brun	Oil	29/4	3/5