

Bid to prevent future financial crisis

Int'l bankers want more data on quality of loans

WASHINGTON, Aug 24: A group of international bankers wants banks and supervisors to provide more information about the quality of loans in an effort to prevent problems like those which swept through Asia two years ago, reports Reuters.

A report issued today by the Institute for International Finance said banks should declare their "problem assets" and supervisors should set up ways to better measure credit risk, creating a new scale for sound and risky loans.

"Such disclosures would foster competition and increase incentives to resolve problems in a timely manner before they

threaten the safety and soundness of the institution," the report said.

"They should also create incentives for banks to improve their credit risk management systems to monitor and manage more effectively the credit exposures in their portfolios."

The IIF groups more than 300 banks and financial institutions from around the world.

Its report, from a working group on loan quality, was one of a number of private sector responses to the financial crisis, which started in Thailand in July 1997 and spread relentlessly around the world before

easing just as abruptly earlier this year.

International policy makers agree that fragile or opaque banking systems were a key factor leading to the crisis and they have been seeking ways to strengthen the system.

But the bankers said different tax, accounting and regulatory rules in different countries currently made it difficult to compare banking systems.

"It is not possible today to undertake meaningful cross-country comparisons concerning the strengths of individual banking systems," said Deutsche Bank board member Josef Ackermann, a member of

the working group.

"The primary aim of the working group... has been to provide a good first step toward increasing banking system transparency and comparability by establishing a framework for communicating information on banks' asset quality."

The report suggest drawing up five categories for loans — standard, watch, substandard, doubtful and loss. The first would apply to sound credit where interest and principal payments were current, the last would be a loan which was "virtually uncollectable" and overdue by more than a year.

Asian stocks edge up on Dow surge

SINGAPORE, Aug 24: Asian shares nudged broadly higher today after a record-setting rally on the Wall Street, but some markets had run out of steam and Tokyo fell as buying in the banking sector faded, says Reuters.

The dollar snapped a recent losing streak and rose across the board on solid-covering in a nervous and illiquid market.

The US currency had jumped to 112.58/61 yen from 111.55/65 in New York and Monday's seven-month low of 110.60.

The initial spark for the dollar's rise came when the Dow Jones average jumped almost 200 points on Monday to a record high, just a day before the Federal Reserve was widely expected to raise US interest rates by 25 basis points.

Traders said the rush out of short dollar positions was fuelled by hedge fund manoeuvring and speculation a pact to strengthen the dollar may fol-

low the Fed's policy meeting.

Seoul led gains in Asian stocks and rose nearly two per cent on the Dow's tail and amid hopes for Daewoo's restructuring, while Taipei and Australia fell after initial gains like Tokyo.

The key Nikkei average of 225 leading shares, N225 was down 0.2 per cent at 18,196 at midday.

"Traders took quick profits, as they want to see whether the (three-banks) alliance will really result in effective restructuring," said Kunihiko Hatae, general manager at Tokyo Securities Co Ltd.

A surge in bank stocks was sparked late last week by news that three of Japan's biggest banks — the Industrial Bank of Japan 8302.T, Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank 8311.T and Fuji Bank 8317.T — would form a joint holding company by the autumn of next year and integrate their operations by the spring of 2002.

Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to major currencies					
Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying T. T Clean	Buying OD. Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	49.7300	49.7700	48.3200	49.1570	49.0650
Pound Sg	79.7918	79.6600	78.6161	78.3563	78.2415
Deutsche Mark	26.9089	26.9306	25.9337	25.8323	25.7945
Swiss Franc	32.5054	32.5315	32.0135	31.9077	31.8610
Japanese Yen	0.4436	0.4440	0.4357	0.4342	0.4336
Dutch Guilder	23.8821	23.9013	23.0166	22.9266	22.8930
Danish Krona	7.0269	7.0325	6.8690	6.8463	6.8363
Australian \$	32.0709	32.0967	30.7954	30.6936	30.6487
Belgian Franc	1.3046	1.3057	1.2574	1.2524	1.2506
Canadian \$	33.5221	33.5490	32.5760	32.4683	32.4207
French Franc	8.0233	8.0297	7.7325	7.7023	7.6910
Hong Kong \$	6.4176	6.4228	6.3397	6.3198	6.3095
Italian Lira	0.0272	0.0272	0.0262	0.0261	0.0261
Norway Kroner	6.3294	6.3345	6.2527	6.2051	6.1960
Singapore \$	29.8499	29.8739	28.8928	28.7973	28.7551
Saudi Rial	13.2966	13.3093	13.1156	13.0723	13.0531
UAE Dirham	13.5770	13.5880	13.3913	13.3470	13.3275
Swedish Krona	5.9507	5.9555	5.8770	5.8576	5.8490
Qatar Riyal	13.6971	13.7081	13.5068	13.4621	13.4424
Kuwait Dinar	169.2648	169.4010	156.7705	156.2524	156.0235
Thai Baht	1.2972	1.2983	1.2845	1.2803	1.2784
Euro	52.6233	52.6716	50.7219	50.5236	50.4496

Bill buying rates					
TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
49.2112	48.9090	48.4980	48.0870	47.6760	46.8540

US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)						
Buying (\$)	Selling (\$)	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months
49.0850	49.7300	USD	5.33675	5.48563	5.68188	5.90500
78.2415	79.7918	GBP	5.07859	5.20313	5.55719	5.66675
Cash/TC	Cash/TC	Euro	2.80000	2.89438	3.04275	3.10125

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars					
Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
43.512/43.520	51.730/51.780	38.350/38.400	3.7995/3.8006	7700/7750	1198.6/1198.7

Amex notes on Tuesday's market

BDT remained firmer against USD as USD/BDT rates stayed in 49.60/49.63 level due to USD liquid market. The rates are expected to stay in this level in the coming week and may even fall further.

Call rates today fell down a little and ranged between 6.25-6.75 per cent level. Rates are expected to move further down in the coming week.

The dollar held onto its early gains against the yen late on Tuesday in Tokyo, but traders balked at pushing it any higher ahead of the US Federal Reserve's Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting later in the day. The greenback jumped against the yen and the euro in early trading on short covering encouraged by steep US stock gains overnight. But the dollar's advance was checked by a wave of offers by Japanese exporters and hedge-fund selling by major investors around the session's high of 112.80 yen. The euro also received support after a Japanese public fund was rumoured to have bought the European currency against the yen on dips. The euro quickly rebounded above 117 yen on the rumour after hitting the lifetime low. Activity thinned in the afternoon ahead of the FOMC meeting.

The dollar retained much of its overnight gain early in Europe on Tuesday buoyed by renewed confidence in US assets amid hopes that a likely US credit tightening today could be the last for the foreseeable future. Although US asset markets had recently been battered by expectation of an interest rate rise at the US Federal Open Market Committee meeting later on Tuesday, the Dow Jones Industrial Average snapped back on Monday to all-time highs, propelling the dollar to a one-month high of 1.0400 against the euro and a one-week high of 120.80 yen. Despite the gains in dollar/yen, the market remained largely optimistic on an economic recovery in Japan. Once the interest rate outlook stabilises in the US after the FOMC meeting, the Dow could extend its rally from Monday's record 11,293.76 close. That could leave the euro the least attractive of the three major currencies in the near term, despite improving prospects of an economic pickup in Europe.

At around 0804 GMT the major currencies closed against USD at 112.19/112.24 JPY, 1.5289/1.5294 CHF, Euro at \$1.0472/1.0474 GBP at \$1.6005/1.6015.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Commissioner of Customs, Excise and VAT
Dhaka (South), Segunbagicha, Dhaka

Auction Tender Notice

Unserviceable motorcars of the Customs, Excise and VAT Commissionerate, Dhaka (South), Segunbagicha mentioned below will be sold on auction on as and where it is basis. Individuals interested in buying will have to submit the tender (sealed) by mentioning the rate of each car separately in the tender box kept at the office of the Additional Commissioner by 12:00 Noon on 30/8/99. Earnest money at the rate of 25% of the cost as mentioned in the tender in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the Commissioner, Customs, Excise and VAT, Dhaka (South), Dhaka will have to be deposited. Tender box will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of tenderers (if any one remains present). Successful tenderers will have to receive the motorcars within 10 (ten) days by depositing whole amount of money. Otherwise earnest money will be confiscated. Mentionable, Bank Draft/Pay Order will have to be submitted separately for each motorcar.

The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Shahed Rahman
Commissioner

Description of car

1. Government motorcar No-Dhaka-Gha-6417.
2. Government motorcar No-Dhaka Gha-6418.

DDP-18077-18/8
G-1547

Oil prices hit new highs

LONDON, Aug 24: Oil's inexorable rise scaled new heights on Monday amid news that oil ministers from key producers Saudi Arabia, Venezuela and Mexico will meet in Caracas later this week, says Reuters.

Front month October Brent set a new 22-month high at \$21.27 a barrel in early trade and by 17:16 GMT the world benchmark Brent was trading at \$21.07, eight cents up.

Initial gains followed US news that Hurricane Bret's 225-km per hour (140 miles per hour) winds had sparked a minor fire at Coastal Cor's 100,000 barrels per day (BPD) Corpus Christi refinery in Texas.

Three other refineries in the oil-rich state also closed while Hurricane Bret passed, but there was no news that they had suffered damage and some started to reopen on Monday.

Supply worries in the United States — the world's biggest oil market — have further bolstered a stunning six-month rally from sub-\$10 lows after key producers tightened supplies in order to slim bulging world stockpiles.

A meeting now set for in Caracas later this week between Saudi Arabia's Ali al-Naimi, Mexico's Luis Téllez and Venezuela's Ali Rodríguez will bring together the three producers which engineered the price rescue cut package.

A senior Saudi oil official said separately on Monday that Saudi Arabia still wanted to maintain current production cuts for a full year until the end of March 2000.

"The market is rewarding us for the commitment we made to cut production. We want to enhance that reward", the Saudi official said. He said that was the consensus within export cartel OPEC, which holds its next ministerial meeting on September 22 in Vienna.

Key OPEC member Iran on Sunday underlined that there was no chance the group's squeeze on the price would be relaxed any time soon.

"OPEC has decided to keep the cuts until March 2000 and the (OPEC) monitoring committee endorsed that position," said Iran's OPEC Governor Hossein Kazempour Ardabili, a candidate for the groups key secretary-general post.

He said average year-to-date oil prices were still relatively low and that OPEC wanted to achieve a sustained level of oil prices before releasing more supply.

This week's meeting will see the three oil ministers discuss the proposal by Venezuela's Rodríguez that OPEC install a formal system for lifting and cutting output to maintain prices in a target band, Venezuelan sources said on Monday.

SALE
FINAL REDUCTIONS
SALE
SALE
SALE

People walk past a fashion boutique, 12 August 1999 in Hong Kong, advertising a seasonal sale. Retail sales are beginning to pick up, according to government statistics released Tuesday, after slumping during the territory's economic recession. Though retail sales by value in June were down six per cent to 14.9 billion Hong Kong dollars (USD\$1.9 billion) from the same period last year, the figure was an improvement from the previous two months.

—AFP photo

Flood Rehabilitation '98
Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority
141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000
Section-1

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Credit No.: 2232-1 BD
IFB No: DU/17-42/252 Dated: 23.08.99

1. The Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-III). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this credit will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for procuring of 20 Nos. Rubber Hose Pipe under Flood Rehabilitation '98.
2. Deputy Chief Engineer (Dredging Unit), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) now invites sealed bids under International Competitive Bidding (ICB) procedures from eligible bidders for the supply of:
Rubber Hose Pipe 20 Nos.
3. Interested eligible bidders may obtain further information from and inspect the bidding documents at the office of the Deputy Chief Engineer, Dredging Unit, BIWTA, BIWTA Bhaban (7th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh. CABLE ADDRESS: AUTHORITY, TELEX NO: BIWTA-BJ, FAX NO: 880-2-231072.
4. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the undersigned and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 1,000/- (one thousand) only or US\$ 25.00 (United States Dollar twenty-five) only (either in cash or pay order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh).
5. The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the general conditions of contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods (SBD), August 1997.
6. Bids must be delivered to the office of the undersigned on or before 1200 hrs (Bangladesh Standard Time) on 5th Oct, 1999 and must be accompanied by a security of Tk. 25,000.00 (Twenty-five thousand) or US\$ 500 (Five hundred) only. In the form and manner detailed in the instructions to bidder.
7. Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at 1215 hrs (Bangladesh Standard Time) on 5th Oct, 1999 at the offices of Deputy Chief Engineer (Dredging Unit), Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority, BIWTA Bhaban (7th Floor), 141-143, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000, Bangladesh.
8. No bidding documents will be sold on the closing/submission date.

Deputy Chief Engineer
Dredging Unit
BIWTA

GD-750

Office of the Executive Engineer
BIWTA, Aricha

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Invitation No: 2232-1 BD/1 Dated: 22-08-1999

World Bank/Credit No. 2232-1BD, IDA Credit Name: The Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-III).

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of the Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-III) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the contract for Rehabilitation of Divider Road (116), Parking Yard (115), and Mini Parking Yard (124), Construction of Bank Protection (120), Repair of Electric Lines (119), and Waiting Sheds (200), Raising of Bath Room Floor (123), and Store (121) at Aricha. Rehabilitation of Overhead Electric Line at Daulatdia (125). Rehabilitation of Slope Protection (129), Boundary Wall (131), and Pavement of Parking Yard (128), at Notakhola of Aricha Division (Bid Package No. 1) under Flood Rehabilitation '98.
2. The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders as mentioned above for the Rehabilitation of Divider Road (116), Parking Yard (115), and Mini Parking Yard (124), Construction of Bank Protection (120), Repair of Electric Lines (119), and Waiting Sheds (200), Raising of Bath Room Floor (123), and Store (121) at Aricha. Rehabilitation of Overhead Electric Line at Daulatdia (125). Rehabilitation of Slope Protection (129), Boundary Wall (131), and Pavement of Parking Yard (128), at Notakhola of Aricha Division (Bid Package No. 1) under Flood Rehabilitation '98.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from Accounts Department, BIWTA, 141-143, Motijheel C/A (9th floor), Dhaka-1000 and from Assistant Director, Accounts, BIWTA, Aricha for a non-refundable fee of Taka 1000/- (one thousand), for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the undersigned.
4. The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provisions of the Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Works (SBD), National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition-January 1998, Revised February 1999), issued by the World Bank Dhaka Office.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 91 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of Taka 3% of the bid price and shall be delivered to (i) Office of the Executive Engineer, BIWTA, Aricha or (ii) Office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Division, Dhaka on or before 10:00 hrs. on 28-09-1999.
6. Bidders may deliver their bids by any means including Courier Service, Registered Mail with Acknowledgement Due, etc. which must reach the above office before the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.
7. Bids shall be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at office of the Executive Engineer, Aricha Division, BIWTA, Aricha at 14:00 hrs. on 28-09-1999.

Julhuddin Ahmed
Executive Engineer, Project Manager
Aricha Division, BIWTA, Aricha

GD-752

Office of the Executive Engineer
BIWTA, Sirajganj Division
Dhanbandi, Sirajganj

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Invitation No: 2232-1 BD/5 Dated: 22-08-1999

World Bank/Credit No. 2232-1 BD, IDA Credit Name: Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-III).

1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a credit from the International Development Association towards the cost of the Third Inland Water Transport Project (IWT-III) and intends to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the Contract for Rehabilitation of Bank Protection (134), and Steel Gangway (133), at Baghabari, Rehabilitation of Pilot House (135), and Waiting Shed (136), at Chilmari and Rehabilitation of Waiting Shed (137) at Balashi of Sirajganj Division (Bid Package No. 5) under Flood Rehabilitation '98. Bidding is open to all Class-1 Civil Works contractor of PWD, RHD, LGED, BIWTA & BWDB.
2. The Bangladesh Inland Water Transport Authority (BIWTA) invites sealed bids from eligible bidders as mentioned above for the Rehabilitation of Bank Protection (134), and Steel Gangway (133), at Baghabari, Rehabilitation of Pilot House (135), and Waiting Shed (136), at Chilmari and Rehabilitation of Waiting Shed (137) at Balashi of Sirajganj Division (Bid Package No. 5) under Flood Rehabilitation '98.
3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased from Accounts Department, BIWTA, 141-143, Motijheel C/A (9th floor), Dhaka-1000 and from Assistant Director, Accounts, BIWTA, Sirajganj for a non-refundable fee of Taka 1000/- (one thousand), for each set. Interested bidders may obtain further information from the undersigned.
4. The provisions in the instructions to bidders and in the conditions of contract are the provision of the Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Works (SBD), National Competitive Bidding (Trial Edition-January 1998, Revised February 1999), issued by the World Bank Dhaka Office.
5. Bids shall be valid for a period of 91 days after bid opening and must be accompanied by security of Taka 3% of the bid price and shall be delivered to (i) the Executive Engineer, BIWTA, Sirajganj or (ii) Office of the Deputy Commissioner, Sirajganj on or before 10:00 hrs. on 28-09-1999.
6. Bidders may deliver their bids by any means including Courier Service, Registered Mail with Acknowledgement Due, etc. which must reach the above office before the deadline for submission of bids. Bids received after the deadline will not be accepted.
7. Bids shall be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend at office of the Executive Engineer, BIWTA, Sirajganj Division at 11:00 hrs. on 28-09-1999.

Md. Nurul Islam
Executive Engineer, Project Manager
Sirajganj Division, BIWTA, Sirajganj

GD-751

Shipping Intelligence
Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 23.8.99

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Ocean Mist	Caracases	Jedd	Cross	20/8	25/8
J/2	Revenge	G Mumb	Sunshine	BSC	3/8	28/8
J/3	Banglar Mamata	Rice(P)/G	Kaki	BSC	19/8	29/8
J/4	General Mojica	GH(DP)	Sing	Meaglow	9/8	30/8
J/5	Sun Bright	G Sing	Sing	MSA	12/8	29/8
J/6	Love me Tender	GI/Wheat	Vala	Rainbow	12/8	29/8
J/7	Fontana	Sugar(G)	Darb	Fortune	6/8	26/8
J/8	Duden	Wheat(P)	Hust	Litmond	1/8	29/8
J/9	Andhika Adiratra(48)	G Jaka	ASA	24/8	26/8	
J/10	Winner	C Clinj	Ranj	MBL	19/8	30/8
J/11	Feng	Wheat(P)	Newo	OWSL	8/7	30/8
J/12	Jurong Balsam	Cont	Sing	NOL	19/8	25/8
J/13	Achiever	Cont	Sing	RSL	20/8	26/8
CCT/1	Banglar Shukha (Flag)	Cont	Sing	BSC	21/8	25/8
CCT/2	Eliza	Cont	Col	Baridhi	20/8	25/8
CCT/3	Bunga Mas Lapan	Cont	P kel	EOSSL	19/8	26/8
RM/14	Bunga Biro	Repair	Sing	Bdshp	18/8	26/8
RM/15	Phaethon	Idle	Durb	OWSL	10/6	26/8
CCJ	Ocean Merit	C Clinj	Sing	OTL	8/8	2/9
GSJ	Youngly	Idle		PSALR/A(20/5)	30/8	
TSP	Saugon-1	R Phos	Jibo	Seacom	21/7	25/8
RM/6	Dignity	HSD/SKO/MS	Sing	ECSSL	19/8	25/8
RM/6	Alj AnandC Clink(Diamond)	Cement	Link	BSL	10/8	30/8
DDJ/2	Flag Investors	Cement	Link	CCNL	R/A	26/8
RM/8	Sea World	Repair		CCNL	R/A	26/8
RM/9	Banglar Shourabh	Repair		BSC	R/A	30/8

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Carthu	28/8		Everett	G	
Confidence(Cont)12/8	24/8	Sing	RSL	Cont	Mong
Brooknes	24/8	Aust	Rainbow	Wheat(P)	
Banglar Gourab	29/8	Kochi	BSC	Rice(P)/G	
Jaamit(48)12/8	28/8	Cal	Royal	GI(Coil)	
Xpress Resolve(Cont)?17/8	25/8	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Paulina	25/8		AMBL	C. Clink	
Sun	26/8	Pira	UMTL	Scraping	
Xpress Makalu(Cont)11/8	25/8	Mong	Baridhi	Cont	Sing
Yohfu	26/8		Total	Wheat(P)	
Tiger River(Cont)16/8	26/8		NOL	Cont	
Uetna	26/8	Jedd	H&SL	Scraping	
Eastern Victory	26/8	HAL	Everett	Urea	
Arktis Hunter(48)18/8	26/8	B/Abbas	Everett	GI(Cont)	
Althea	26/8	Osaka	Prog	G	
Martina	26/8	Mong	SMSL	Survey Purpose	
Karunia Pacific	27/8	Padra	SMSL	Cement	
Annikal	27/8	P Said	Ancient	Wheat(G)	
Banglar Robi (Cont)10/8	27/8	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
DA FA (Cont)17/8	28/8	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
QC Teal(Cont)17/8	28/8	Sing	QCSSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Biral(Cont)17/8	28/8	Sing	Bdshp	Cont	Sing
Bunga Mas Enam	28/8	P Kel	EOSSL	Cont	Sing
Orto(48)18/8	28/8	Cal	PHI	G	
Kota Berjaya(Cont)19/8	29/8	Sing	PHI(BD)	Cont	Sing
Star Glory	30/8	Sing	PSAL	Cement	
Jaya Mars(Cont)23/8	30/8		Baridhi	Cont	Col
Kota Naga (Cont)22/8	31/8	Sing	PHI(BD)	Cont	Sing
Xpress Padma(Cont)17/8	7/9	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
QC Pintal (Cont)22/8	2/9	Sing	QCSSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Moni(Cont)22/8	2/9	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing