

China unveils huge stimulus package to revive economy

BEIJING, Aug 31: China unveiled a huge new stimulus package yesterday aimed at reviving the flagging economy by spending on infrastructure and flushing money out of private bank accounts, says Reuters.

At the same time, the government promised help to the growing ranks of jobless and struggling pensioners.

State media said parliament approved a 60 billion yuan (\$7.25 billion) bond issue and cleared the way for the first ever tax on interest from individual bank deposits in yuan and foreign currencies.

Finance Minister Xiang Huacheng was quoted as saying the bond issue could have a stimulus effect worth 300 billion yuan, mainly by expanding bank lending.

Xiang said Beijing's fiscal policy was aimed at 'boosting investment, expanding consumption and stimulating ex-

ports." By punishing savers the government hopes to encourage consumption and end almost two years of deflation. Individual bank deposits are now at 5.92 trillion yuan and rising fast.

Last year, China notched up growth of 7.8 per cent, largely thanks to infrastructure spending funded by 100 billion yuan in state debt and a matching amount in lending by state-owned banks.

The interest tax is likely to dismay the nation's avid savers, who are setting aside money for a rainy day amid rising unemployment and the collapse of the socialist welfare state.

Savers have few places to put their cash outside the state banks and have ignored repeated signals to spend in the form of interest rate cuts.

Analysts said it was unclear

whether the latest move would spur China's frugal masses to splurge.

Chi Lo, chief Asia economist at HSBC Markets in Hong Kong, said the tax "will not be that effective in boosting consumption if people's outlook for jobs and income growth remain very poor."

He welcomed the bond issue as part of necessary moves to boost fiscal spending but warned that this alone would not be able to rescue faltering growth.

"The heart of the problem is deflation, which sums up people's poor expectations of economic performance, future income flow and jobs," he said.

China's benchmark inflation indicator, the retail price index, has been negative for 22 months since October 1997.

The economy grew 7.6 per cent in the first half of this year, but is now slowing with

annual second-quarter growth estimated at 7.1 per cent against first-quarter growth of 8.3 per cent.

The government was careful to balance bad news for bank savers with good news for the most vulnerable sections of society — the unemployed, elderly and low-paid urban workers.

Xinhua news agency quoted Xiang as saying revenues from the bank interest tax would be used to increase subsidies and allowances for laid-off state workers, raise minimum incomes among urban dwellers and meet pension payments that are badly in arrears.

The China Daily newspaper quoted minister of Labour and Social Security Zhang Zuojin as saying social security payments to millions of laid-off workers would be boosted by 30 per cent. Xiang said the extra payments would be worth 24.5 billion yuan this year.

Japanese jobless rate steady at record high

TOKYO, Aug 31: With the nation struggling amid a serious economic downturn, the government said Tuesday that Japan's jobless rate in July remained at the previous month's record high 4.9 per cent, says AFP.

The unemployment rate has deteriorated in recent months, increasing pessimism about the nation's economy. And Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa said that worse may be ahead.

"It's hard to predict the jobless rate in the future, but it may rise further," he told reporters.

The unemployment rate for men in July stayed at 5.1 per cent, also a record high. The rate was also unchanged for women, at 4.8 per cent. The overall jobless rate stood at 4.8 per cent in March and April before improving to 4.6 per cent in May.

Economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires in Tokyo had forecast the overall jobless rate would stay at 4.9 per cent in July.

After adjustment for seasonal factors, the number of jobholders in July fell 20,000 from June to 64.1 million. The number of jobless people rose 20,000 on month to 3.3 million.

Economic Planning Agency head Taichi Sakaiya said Tuesday that the government must implement a second extra budget to ensure that economic recovery continues through the first quarter of next year.

"The jobless situation is getting somewhat worse," Sakaiya said.

Chief Cabinet Hiroshi Nonaka also acknowledged that the unemployment rate was serious.

"The economic situation has been improving a little thanks partly to several policies," Nonaka said. "We need to push this trend further to remove people's concerns."

Also Tuesday, the Labour Ministry said that the ratio of job offers to job seekers was also unchanged in July from the previous month.

Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to major currencies						
Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling IC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer	
US Dollar	49.7300	49.7700	49.3200	49.1570	49.0850	
Pound Stg	79.4188	79.4827	78.2215	77.9643	77.8488	
Deutsche Mark	27.0640	27.0858	26.0750	25.9730	25.9350	
Swiss Franc	32.7053	32.7327	32.2100	32.1036	32.0566	
Japanese Yen	0.4515	0.4518	0.4433	0.4419	0.4412	
Dutch Guilder	24.0198	24.0391	23.1420	23.0515	23.0177	
Danish Krona	7.0688	7.0745	6.9094	6.8966	6.8785	
Australian \$	32.2002	32.2261	30.9236	30.8214	30.7763	
Belgian Franc	1.3122	1.3132	1.2642	1.2508	1.2570	
Canadian \$	33.6605	33.6876	32.7077	32.5996	32.5519	
French Franc	8.0695	8.0760	7.7746	7.7442	7.7329	
Hong Kong \$	6.4171	6.4223	6.3388	6.3179	6.3086	
Italian Lira	0.0273	0.0274	0.0260	0.0262	0.0262	
Norway Kroner	6.2388	6.2330	6.1000	6.1754	6.1664	
Singapore \$	29.8884	29.9224	28.9386	28.8429	28.8007	
Saudi Rial	13.2989	13.3096	13.1160	13.0726	13.0535	
UAE Dirham	13.5770	13.5880	13.3909	13.3466	13.3271	
Swedish Krona	5.9952	6.0000	5.9208	5.9012	5.8926	
Qatar Riyal	13.6976	13.7089	13.5086	13.4621	13.4424	
Kuwait Dinar	168.8625	168.983	156.4225	155.905	155.671	
Thai Baht	1.2979	1.2990	1.2852	1.2810	1.2791	
Euro	52.9326	52.9752	50.9983	50.7980	50.7244	

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	12 Months
49.0850	49.7300	USD	5.37063	5.50250	5.89004	5.92125
77.7261	79.2696	GBP	5.05125	5.20888	5.56678	5.87500
Cash/	Cash/	Euro	2.60188	2.68000	3.06000	3.12750
T/C	T/C					3.23938

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesia Rupiah	Korean Won
43.470/	51.800	38.350/	3.7999/	7650/	1184.3/
43.477	51.860	38.400	3.8001	7700	1184.8

Amex notes on Tuesday's market

Liquidity of USD in the interbank market has forced the USD/BDT rates down from 49.63/65 level over the past three weeks. The USD/BDT rates stood at 49.50/55 level today, testing the strong support level at 40.50. It is likely that the rates will stay in the current level for the coming month.

Call rates have been stable in the 6-7 per cent level over the past three weeks. Unless there is a large drain on funds from the call market, the rates are likely to remain in the present range for the coming week. The economy has slowed down somewhat, which has decreased commercial lending and created surplus in the call market.

The dollar fell to a seven-month low below 110 Yen late on Tuesday in Tokyo as selling by European investors intensified and jitters over US asset markets. The dollar's downward momentum pick up speed after it broke below technical support at 110.50 yen. Stop-loss sell orders were hit at various levels between 110.20 to 110.50 Yen, sending the greenback to a low of 109.90 Yen, its lowest since January 12.

The euro firmed against the dollar early in Europe on Tuesday as US asset markets looked vulnerable amid rekindled concern the Federal Reserve may raise interest rates more aggressively than previously thought. A sell-off in Japanese equities overnight after softer-than-expected Japanese industrial production data also gave some reprieve to the euro. By comparison, the dollar was mired within striking distance of seven-month lows hit last week. The market had initially taken a benign view on US interest rates after last week's 25-basis-point Fed rate hike, only to be spooked again by Fed Chairman Alan Greenspan's comments about the need for central bankers to watch share prices. Foreign investors were still likely to move their money into Japanese assets near term, despite Tuesday's 2.69 per cent setback in the Tokyo stock market's Nikkei average.

A 0.6 per cent drop in Japan's July industrial output triggered the Nikkei selloff. Japan's unemployment rate also added to the bearish tone, staying at a record high 4.9 per cent in July. The market's focus was now on a flurry of purchasing managers surveys from the US and Europe later this week as well as Friday's August US employment report.

At 0805 GMT, the major currencies closed against USD at 110.13/110.18 JPY, 1.5192/1.5196 CHF, Euro at \$ 1.0533/1.0536 GBP at \$ 1.5982/1.5985.

Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 31.8.99

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving
J/1	Ever brisk	Gr	Sing	RML	19/8	31/8
J/2	Handy Silver	Wheat(P)	Sing	MSA	17/8	7/9
J/3	Banglar Mamata	Rice(P)/GAI	Kaki	BSC	19/8	1/9
J/4	General Mojica	GIL(D.P)	Sing	Seaglor	9/8	3/9
J/5	Sun Bright	Gr	Sing	MSA	12/8	3/9
J/6	Love Me Tender GI/Wheat(P)	Chn	Seacom	18/8	7/9	
J/7	Delight Glory	Gr	Hust	Litmond	1/8	2/9
J/8	Duden	Wheat(P)	Cont	QCSL	28/8	11/9
J/9	QC Teal	Cont	Sing	MBL	19/8	2/9
J/10	Winner	C Clink(Contd)	Panji	MBL	19/8	2/9
J/11	Feng	Wheat(P)	Newo	OWSL	8/7	2/9
J/12	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	27/8	31/8
CCT/1	Xpress Makulu	Cont	Mong	BARIDHI	26/8	31/8
CCT/2	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	29/8	2/9
CCT/3	Revenge	Gr	Mumb	Sunshine	3/8	7/9
RM/14	APJ Anand	C Clink(Diamond)	Sing	APEX	18/8	5/9
RM/15	Phaethon	Idle	Durb	OWSL	10/6	2/9
CGJ	Ocean Merit	C Clink	Sing	OTL	8/8	4/9
GSJ	Youngling	Idle	PSAL	R/A(20/5)	1/9	
TSP	Navigator	RPhos	Nanj	SEACOM	15/8	5/9
RM/8	Sea World	Repair	CCNI	R/A	31/8	
RM/9	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	BSC	R/A	2/9	
CUFLJ	Flag Investors	Cement	Lank	BSL	10/8	7/9

VESSELS DUE AT OUTER ANCHORAGE						
Name of vessels	Date of Arrival	L Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port	
Nordkap(Cont)25/8	31/8	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing	
Banglar Urmil	31/8	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing	
Sun	1/9	Pira	UMTL	Scraping	Sing	
Da Fa (Cont) 17/8	2/9	Vizak	RSL	Cont	Sing	
Madina-1(Ex Takushin Maru)	2/9		BBA	Ship	Sing	
Hickory	2/9		Karna	Cont	Sing	
Kota Naga (Cont)22/8	2/9	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing	
QC Pantall(Cont)22/8	2/9	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing	
Bangla Biship(Cont)17/8	3/9	Sing	Biship	Cont	Sing	
Jin Cheng	2/9		BDSup	Gr	Chin	
Bulk Emerald	2/9		MSA	R.Seed	Sing	
Carthru	3/9	Sing	Everett	Gr	Sing	
Kochi Ace(48/26/8)	7/9		Everett	Gr	Sing	
Sin Hai (Cont) 25/8	4/9	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing	
Jaam(48/12/8)	3/9	Cal	Royal	Gil(Coil)	Sing	
Jurong Balsam(Cont)24/8	3/9	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing	
Bunga Mas Enam(Cont)18/8	3/9	P Kel	EOSL	Cont	Sing	
Eliza(Cont)25/8	3/9		Baridhi	Cont	Sing	
Norbuk Seraya	4/9		Seacom	R.Phos	Sing	
QC Mallard (Cont)29/8	4/9		QCSL	Cont	Sing	
Ultima (Cont)29/8	5/9		QCSL	Cont	Sing	
Martina	5/9	Mong	SMSL	Survey Purpose	Sing	
Karunia Pacific	5/9	Pada	SMSL	Cement	Sing	
Bangla Shukha(Cont)25/8	5/9		Everett	Gr	Sing	
Gold Mekong(48/26/8)	6/9		Everett	Spl Cargo	Sing	
Dansus	6/9	Sing	Sinni	Scraping	Sing	
Bunga Mas Lima(Cont)24/8	6/9	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing	
Achiever (Cont) 30/8	6/9	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing	
Banglar Moni(Cont)22/8	7/9	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing	
Kota Cahaya (Cont)29/8	7/9	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing	
Sarah-1	7/9	Yang	SMSL	Gr	Sing	
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 30/8	9/9	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing	
Tiger River (Cont) 30/8	9/9	Sing	NOL	Cont	Sing	
Confidence (Cont) 30/8	10/9	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing	
Star Glory	10/9		PSAL	Cement	Sing	
Banglar Gourab	10/9	Kochi	BSC	Rice(P)/Gr	Sing	
Banga Buri (Cont) 29/8	10/9	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing	
Ivory Ace (Roro)24/30/8	16/9	Yoko	JSC	Vehi	Sing	
San Bruno (Roro)24/30/8	25/9	P Kel	JF	Vehi	Sing	

VESSELS REGISTERED				
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival
Mandiri Jaya(R)	Gr	Yang	Everett	22/8
Orto (R)	Gr	Sing	Everett	28/8

The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Non-formal Education Directorate
Primary and Mass Education Division
2/6, Block-E, Lalmatia, Dhaka-1207
No-NED/Logi/TV Spot-31/98/268 Dated 08.05.1406 Bang/23.08.1999

সুন্দর জীবনের জন্য শিক্ষা

Urgent Tender Notice for Producing Informative Film

Tenders in sealed envelopes are invited for producing 1 informative film based on rural education assemble centre under the Non-formal Education Directorate under Primary and Mass Education Division. Establishment efficient in the said work can submit tender in the tender box kept at the logistics section in the ground floor of the directorate till 12:00 Noon on 09.09.99. Tenders received will be opened the same day at 12:05 PM in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present). Attested photo copies of income tax clearance certificate, bank solvency certificate and trade licence will have to be submitted alongwith the tender. 2.5% money of the quoted rate as bid security (as security) in the form of pay-order from any commercial bank will have to be submitted to the Project Director, Non-formal Education Project-2 with the tender. Tender schedule can be procured till 08.09.99 on any day (excepting weekly holiday and holiday) during office hours on payment of taka 100/- (one hundred) in cash (non-refundable) from the finance/ logistics section/office of the Primary Education Directorate/ office of the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka.

The authority reserves all rights regarding it including acceptance/rejection of all tenders; partially/fully without assigning any reason.

MD Azmal Hossain
Project Director
Non-formal Education Project-2
DFP-18689-25/8
G-1614

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Films & Publications
112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000
No 7-2/84-85(F)/16881 Dated: 31.08.1999

International Tender No 1

Department of Films and Publications (DFP) invites sealed international tender for the supply and commissioning of equipment from manufacturer through their appointed local agent in Bangladesh for supply of the following equipment specified in the tender schedule.

No	Item	Quantity
1.	Beta Sp camcorder (camera) including lens, viewfinder and other accessories.	1 No.
2.	Long life battery for camcorder	4 Nos.
3.	Battery Charger (capable of charging 3/4 batteries at a time) with normal and quick charging facilities.	2 Nos.
4.	Light weight tripod with fluid head and spreader etc	2 Nos.
5.	Video cassette (Beta sp) oxide coated (1) 20 min (3) 60 min	20 Nos.
6.	Beta sp player/with DT (for slow motion)	1 No.
7.	Beta sp player equivalent	1 No.
8.	Digital Multi Effect system with 2D, Slide, Squeeze, Expansion, Split zoom etc. 3D is rotation, perspective dim etc nonlinear, Page turn, Page roll, Cylinder, Sphere etc. Modifiers, border width, softness, drop shadow, lighting, trail etc. 4 inputs, 1 little key input, 1 DSK 1/P	1 No.
9.	Bata Sp Recorder/Player	1 No.
10.	Computer graphics	1 No.
11.	Caption Camera	1 No.
12.	Edit Controller	1 No.
13.	Cassette Recorder-cum-player	1 No.
14.	CD Player	1 No.
15.	14" Colour monitor	2 Nos.
16.	Wave-form and Vector-scope monitor	1 No.

Tender document (tender schedule) with detailed specifications and scope is obtainable from the office of DFP, 112, Circuit House Road, Dhaka-1000 on payment of Tk 750/- per set during office hours up to 14.10.1999.

Tender will be received in two-envelope system (one for technical cum commercial offer and one for financial offer). This will be received in two separate tender boxes kept in the office of DFP up to 1200 hours on 17.10.1999. Technical cum commercial offer of the tender will be opened at 1215 hours on 17.10.1999 in presence of the bidders (or their local representatives), if any. Financial offer of the bidder, whose technical offer found responsive, will be opened later after notifying the bidders. This will be opened in presence of qualified bidders, if any.

DFP reserves all rights to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BM Salauddin
Director (Films)
and
Project Director
G-1617 Video-Cassette Recording Facilities Project

Sudan starts exporting oil

KHARTOUM, Aug 31: For the first time in its history, Sudan exported oil Monday to the world market and the first consignment consisting of 600,000 barrels left for Singapore. Sudanese President Omar al-Bashir said, reports Xinhua.

He made the remarks in a rally at the Bashier seaport, 25 kilometers from the port city of Bur Sudan in northeast Sudan.