

64 Malaysian brokerages to consolidate by 2003

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28: The nation's 64 brokerage firms are expected to consolidate by 2003, a senior finance official said Monday, reports AP.

Deputy Finance Minister Shafie Mohamad Salleh said the government has not yet determined how many anchor brokerages will remain after the consolidation ahead of the financial sector liberalisation in 2003. He was speaking to reporters.

On Friday, Finance Minister Daim Zainuddin indicated the creation of potential anchor brokerages when he said the government would define a new category of stockbrokers to be referred to as universal brokers.

Those brokers will be allowed to establish branches, and will be required to merge with existing companies in line with the government's push for industry consolidation, Daim had said without elaborating.

The government has urged the country's brokerages to merge, but has thus far stopped short of issuing a merger plan similar to that for the banking industry.

Malaysia's 55 banks are expected to complete their consolidation into banking groups by the end of the year. The central bank, Bank Negara, announced the consolidation scheme last year, saying the streamlining was necessary to make the industry strong enough to compete with big foreign banks before the sector is liberalised.

**Japan may open another airport to US airlines**

HONOLULU, Feb 28: Japan may open Tokyo's Haneda Airport to US airlines, according to US transportation Secretary Rodney Slater, reports AP.

This could create more opportunities in tourism and trade for Hawaii.

Slater met Saturday with Lt. Gov. Mazine Hirono during a Honolulu stopover following two days of discussions with aviation officials in Tokyo.

## IMF upbeat on battered Indonesian economy

JAKARTA, Feb 28: The IMF's new Asia-Pacific director for today gave an upbeat outlook for Indonesia's battered economy, predicting its growth could exceed the government's forecast and saying inflation was well under control, reports Reuter.

Yusuke Horiguchi, in Jakarta for official talks, told reporters he was confident inflation would remain in single digits despite a planned increase in wages and fuel and electricity prices.

"We have incorporated those factors in our inflation forecast. The inflation picture will continue to be favourable," he said, adding that the increase would have no lingering impact if economic policies were right.

Shortly after he spoke, the Statistics Bureau said Indonesia's February inflation fell a year-on-year 0.84 per cent.

Indonesian inflation, which in 1998 had threatened to turn into hyperinflation, has fallen

sharply in recent months and the central bank's last week estimated it would be seven per cent this year.

There has been concern the planned price rises for fuel and electricity and a planned increase in government employees' salaries could stoke inflation.

Last week, the government announced that fuel prices would rise by up to 10 per cent from April and electricity tariffs are set to 29 per cent.

The rises will reduce the cost of subsidies and help the government cut its budget deficit.

Horiguchi was also confident Indonesia's economic growth this year could be higher than the 3 to 4 per cent estimated rate.

"We believe that economic growth of between 3 to 4 per cent is entirely within reach and could even be better, given the strength of the fourth quarter last year and with all the right

polices that the government has decided."

Indonesia's GDP grew 5.76 per cent in the year to the fourth quarter last year while growth for the whole year was 0.23 per cent. That compares to a contraction of 13.68 per cent in 1998.

Last week, the Indonesian finance ministry predicted GDP growth this year of three per cent. The Statistics Bureau forecast four per cent.

But economists warned it was too early to say real economic recovery was underway. They said recent improvements had come from stronger domestic demand which was driven more by falling interest rates and a stabilising rupiah than a real growth in production.

They also cautioned that external factors such as political stability and concerns of spreading unrest in troubled areas could hamper the growth.

## Bid to settle frozen share dispute with S'pore Malaysian firm sees investors' support to its proposal

KUALA LUMPUR, Feb 28: A private Malaysian firm today predicted overwhelming support for its proposals to settle a dispute with Singapore over frozen shares worth billions of dollars, reports AFP.

The scheme by Effective Capital Sdn Bhd was one of two options endorsed Friday by he Singapore and Malaysian stock exchanges to end a dispute which has strained often-testy relations between the neighbouring states.

The shares were traded over the counter on Singapore's Central Limit Order Book (CLOB) until they were frozen by Malaysian capital controls imposed in September 1998.

Some 172,000 shareholders,

mainly Singaporeans, were hit by the freeze.

Mohamad Moiz, chief executive officer of Effective Capital, told a press conference he believed 80 to 90 per cent of them would accept his firm's proposal.

He said this would involve the release for trading of all shares after 16 month on payment of a 1.5 per cent fee, levied on the shares' value as of February 15.

### Russian govt may borrow from central bank to cover deficit

MOSCOW, Feb 28: The Russian government may borrow from the Central Bank to cover "serious funding shortages" next month, First Deputy Prime Minister and Finance Minister Mikhail Kasyanov said Monday.

Earlier this year, the government had expected to get through the winter and spring without new borrowing. The government's finances have been in decent shape due to high world prices for oil — Russia's main export.

But the government's optimism seemed to be melting away lately, with officials saying foreign debt payments in March may require dipping into Central Bank reserves.

Investors who reject this offer can accept another proposal agreed by subsidiaries of the two stock exchanges. This would charge only one per cent but the release for trading of all the shares would not be completed for 42 months.

The Securities Investors Association of Singapore, representing 50,000 of the investors, has welcomed the deal between the two exchanges. But its president David Gerald has said the terms of the second option are "designed to discourage" acceptance.

He has predicted that most investors would take Effective Capital's offer as a "quick way out."

Despite numerous private-sector plans to settle the issue, the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange said earlier that Effective Capital was the only one to meet its terms.

The Asian Wall Street Journal Monday reported that Effective Capital was supported by Singapore businessman Akbar Khan, whom it said had close ties to a senior Malaysian minister.

Asked about reports that Effective Capital stood to make 60 million US dollars before expenses should it act for all shareholders, Mohamed Moiz said his firm was "quite comfortable" with its 1.5 per cent fee.

He said the issue of a fee had been accepted by authorities and owners of the shares.

### Tender Corrigendum Notice

The closing/opening date of International Tender Enquiry No ZFCL/OS-2052 dated 6-12-99 (60/TPH Boiler) invited by Zia Fertilizer Company Limited is hereby extended from 29-2-2000 at 2:30 PM to 29-3-2000 at 2:30 PM.

All other terms and conditions of the tender will remain unchanged.

**General Manager  
(Commercial)  
For Managing Director.**



**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Operation & Maintenance Division, Kazla  
DESA, Dhaka

Reference No-O&M/Kazla/DESA/Hisha-12/63 Dated: 8/2/2000

### Tender Notice

Tenders in sealed envelopes from enlisted contractors/bonafide supplier establishments of Power Development Board/Dhaka Electric Supply Authority under terms and conditions of Form No T-2 of Bangladesh Power Development Board for supply of a) different types of tools for use in urgent break-down work under Operation and Maintenance Division, DESA, Kazla and b) lug with four holes, earthing wire and waste cotton for work under Operation and Maintenance Division, DESA, Kazla under Operation and Maintenance Division, DESA, Kazla, Dhaka. Each set of detailed tender form at the cost of Taka 100/- (one hundred) only (non-refundable) can be purchased till 8/3/2000 on all working days from a) General Manager, Client Service (South), DESA, 12/A, Motijheel, Dhaka; b) Superintending Engineer, Client Service, Kazla Circle, DESA, 12/A, Motijheel, Dhaka; c) Executive Engineer O&M Division, Siddhiganj, DESA, Dhaka; d) Executive Engineer, CO Division, Siddhiganj, DESA, Dhaka; e) Executive Engineer, CO Division, Kazla, DESA, Dhaka and f) Sonali Bank, Jatrabari Branch, Dhaka. Tender can be purchased with prior permission from General Manager, Client Service (South), Superintending Engineer, Client Service, Kazla Circle, Executive Engineer, O&M Division, Siddhiganj, Executive Engineer, CO Division, Siddhiganj, Executive Engineer, CO Division, Kazla, or the undersigned and will be received on 9/3/2000 (till 12 Noon) in the offices of Dhaka Electric Supply Authority as mentioned above and tender box will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM before the tenderers or their representatives present (if anyone remains present). Earnest money at the rate of 5% (five per cent) of the quoted rate in the form of DD/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of Additional Director (Accounts), Regional Accounts Office, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority will have to be deposited with tender. Tenders will be treated as rejected if anyone fails to deposit earnest money mentionable, that a) 5% of the estimated expenditure as the earnest money in the form of Pay Order/Bank Draft will have to be submitted with the tender. b) Tenderer will have to submit rate analyses if they quote rate five per cent or above or below the estimated expenditure. c) Tenderer who will submit from 5% to 10% below the estimated expenditure, then they will have to deposit 5% of the estimated rate as the earnest money in addition to 5% of the specific money. d) Tenderers who will give 10% below the estimated expenditure, they will have to deposit 10% of the estimated rate as the security money in addition to specific 5% earnest money. e) Dues will be paid only after the authority allocates the necessary fund. The undersigned reserves the power to accept or reject the lowest or any tender without assigning any reason.

**Executive Engineer**  
Operation & Maintenance Division  
Kazla  
DESA, Dhaka

DFP-4101-23/2  
G-360

### The Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh

Jatiya Scout Bhavan (8th Floor)  
70/1, Inner Circular Road  
Kakrail, Dhaka-1000  
Tel: 8311254, 8317237, 8311605

### Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the Authorised Dealers/Re-sellers /Distributors of IBM/COMPAQ/HP/NCR brand of Computer having sufficient experience for the supply of the following Hardware and Software to the Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh:

**Hardware**  
(i) 1 unit — Brand Server Computer.  
(ii) 1 unit — Personal Computer (PC).  
**Software**  
(i) SQL Server (5 users license).  
(ii) Visual Basic (latest version with original license).

The tender documents will be available up to 05/03/2000 during office hours in the office of the Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh on payment of Tk. 100/- (Taka one hundred) only in cash. Tenders will be received up to 11:00 AM on 12/03/2000 along with earnest money @ 2.5% of the total quoted amount in the form of Pay Order/Demand Draft issued from any scheduled bank in favour of the Secretary General, IBB, Dhaka. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 11:15 AM in presence of the bidders (if any). The Institute of Bankers, Bangladesh (IBB) reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

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**Secretary General**

**Biman  
BANGLADESH AIRLINES**  
ZIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT, KURMITOLA, DHAKA, PHONES: 894771-9, 8947304,  
CABLE: AIRBANGLA, TLX: 642649 DABG BJ  
Ref: DACPL/26-99-2000/189 Dated: 24.02.2000

### Re-Tender Notice

No. 26/99-2000

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by Biman Bangladesh Airlines on two envelope system (Technical & Price Offer) from interested Manufacturers/Distributors/Suppliers for the supply of the item mentioned below as per details/specifications mentioned in the schedule:

01. Microbus (09 seater) — 10 units (1400-2000 CC)

Tender schedule mentioning full details/specifications of the above, terms and conditions will be available from the Manager (Cash & Banking), Head Office "BALAKA", Accounts Officer (Cash Payment Unit), Admin Building, ZIA, Dhaka of Biman Finance Directorate & Office of the Divisional Commissioner (1st 12 Storied Govt. Office Building, 1st Floor, Room No. 206), Segunbagicha, Dhaka on payment of Tk. 500/- (Taka five hundred) only per set non-refundable by applying own letter head pad during any working days up to 27/03/2000.

Sealed tender should be dropped in the tender box kept in Local Purchase Section, Stores & Purchase Directorate, Biman Admin Building, ZIA, Dhaka, Biman Press Building, Farmgate, Tejgaon, Dhaka and Office of the Deputy Director, Local Govt, Dhaka Division, Room No. 205, 1st 12 Storied Govt. Office Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka latest by 1130 hours (GST) on 28/03/2000 & will be opened on the same day at 14:00 hours at the premises of Stores & Purchase Directorate, Admin Building, ZIA, Dhaka in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Biman Management reserves the right to increase or decrease the quantity of the item and & can accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

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**Dy. General Manager (Purchase)  
Stores & Purchase Directorate**

পিপলস ইন্সুরেন্স কোং.লিং  
শাখা প্রধানদের বার্ষিক সম্মেলন-২০০০



The annual branch managers' conference of Peoples Insurance held at a city hotel on Saturday.

— Peoples Ins photo

Peoples Insurance holds branch managers' confce

The annual branch managers' conference of Peoples Insurance Company Limited was held on Saturday at a local hotel, says a press release.

The conference, presided over by Mohamed Mizanur Rahman, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, was addressed by the former chairman Giasuddin Ahmed, Nazmul Ahsan Khaled and Amir Humayun Mahmud Chowdhury.

Syed Zahurul Huq, Managing Director of the company, also addressed the conference. Former chairman Amir Khasru Mahmud Chowdhury, MP, Engineer Mubarak Taher and Directors Md. Shamsul Alam and AKM Aminul Mannan and former Director Golam Faruk Ahmed were present.

At the conference, the achievement of business target of the branches for the year 1999 was reviewed.

In the year 1999, total premium income of the company increased substantially in comparison with the previous year. The branch heads and employees who achieved the target were declared to be awarded prizes.

400m shares of Thai Airways to be sold this yr

BANGKOK, Feb 28: Four hundred million shares of Thai Airways International PCL will be sold this year, Deputy Prime Supachai Panitchpakdi said Monday, reports AP.

The move will cut the Thai government's state in the national carrier to around 70 per cent from 93 per cent, he said.

Some 300 million new shares and 100 million shares held by the Finance Ministry will be sold to the public, employees and to a strategic partner yet to be selected, Supachai told reporters after a meeting of the government's privatisation committee.

The sale plan is subject to Cabinet approval, expected Tuesday or in early March, he said.

Supachai said a public offering equivalent to a stake of 8 per cent in the company will be conducted within three months of Cabinet approval. A stake of 5 per cent will be offered to employees of the listed company, and a further 10 per cent to the strategic partner.

Proceeds will be used to lower the national airline's heavy debt burden, he said.

Privatisation of some state enterprises is key to economic reforms of the government of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, which came to power in 1997 — in the depths of Asia's financial crisis.

## Top Internet age executives gather in Silicon Valley

STANFORD (California), Feb 28: Some of the biggest power players of the Internet age gathered here for a two-hour free-wheeling discussion of where the Web stands and where it is going, reports AP.

The "Summit in Silicon Valley," hosted by NBC News anchor Tom Brokaw and cable channel MSNBC, brought top executives from Amazon.com, eBay, America Online, Cisco Systems, Microsoft, Intel, Yahoo! and five other companies to Stanford University on Sunday to talk about an increasingly connected society.

The mostly cordial conversation covered everything from Internet privacy and security to hate mail and content, but one of the biggest topics was the pending takeover of Time Warner by America Online in a deal valued at more than \$160 billion.

Some members of the student audience joined the chorus of concern that has been voiced since the deal was announced in January.

Critics fear the pairing will create a giant so large that competition is stifled and consumers and businesses will be socked with inflated prices for such things as advertising, cable and high-speed Internet connections.

Brokaw immediately put AOL chief executive Steve Case on the hot seat about the planned pairing.

"If you get the Time Warner deal completed, you'll have more power than Citizen Kane ever imagined, everything from CNN to rap artists, everything from Time magazine to Web sites," Brokaw said.

"Why shouldn't we believe that's simply too much power? That anyone who wants to do business will only have to do it on your terms?"