

IFC to double investment in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Apr 6: The International Finance Corporation (IFC), the World Bank's private investment arm, will more than double its investment in Sri Lanka to 200 million US dollars in the next 12 to 18 months, the official Daily News reported today, reports Xinhua.

"The increased investments will be mainly focused on the financial sector of the country," IFC's South Asia Director Bernard Pasquier was quoted as saying.

The IFC is exploring the possibility of setting up an investment bank dedicated to government and corporate debt securities and is also working on new debenture issues to diversify the issuer base, said Pasquier.

The IFC's current investment portfolio in Sri Lanka was 86.4 million dollars.

US House expects China trade vote in late May

WASHINGTON, Apr 6: The US House of Representatives will vote during the week of May 22-26 on legislation granting permanent trade benefits to China, Speaker Dennis Hastert announced yesterday in a move to shore up support for the market-opening pact, says Reuters.

"We have a target date to work together... to get it done," Hastert told reporters.

But the Illinois Republican said the burden was on President Bill Clinton to secure enough Democratic votes to ensure passage of the legislation, which would clear the way for US businesses to tap China's vast marketplace, potentially the world's largest with 1.3 billion consumers.

The Clinton administration

and its allies have been urging the Republican leadership for weeks to set a deadline for a vote on permanent normal trade relations (PNTR), arguing that it would put pressure on wavering Democrats to support the market-opening agreement.

If a vote was not held before June, they said, the trade pact could become mired in election politics and may have to be set aside until 2001.

Previously Hastert said he would schedule a vote only after Clinton and Vice President Al Gore had secured the support of between 90 to 100 House Democrats.

"We're still working to get every vote we can," senior Clinton adviser Joel Johnson said.

Clinton's allies in the House expect 70 to 80 Democrats to

support permanent NTR, enough they say to ensure passage if 150 Republicans back the initiative. The legislation will need 218 votes in the 435-member House for approval.

Senate passage is virtually assured.

The White House and the business community welcomed Hastert's announcement and promised to redouble their lobbying efforts on Capitol Hill.

"I assure you that I will do what I can to pass it," Clinton said. "I think it is not only in our economic interest, this is of profoundly important national security interest to the United States."

US Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky said she was confident "we will prevail."



Picture shows the partnership development meeting between BEIOA, PPS, Component B project of the GTZ and CENCE held in the city yesterday.

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank rate of major currencies against Taka

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Central Bank USD/BDT rate: Buying-BDT 50.85/Selling-BDT 51.15		
			Selling	Buying	OD Transfer
51.250	51.250	USD	50.8200	50.8516	50.5631
0.4975	0.4975	JPY	0.4788	0.4752	0.4744
31.5558	31.5874	CHF	30.7329	30.8311	30.5222
30.4241	30.4449	SGD	29.1282	29.0317	28.9610
35.8042	35.8286	CAD	34.5315	34.4171	34.2871
5.9509	5.9549	SEK	5.8447	5.8254	5.8132
32.0617	32.0936	AUD	29.2418	29.1449	28.9423
13.6255	13.6348	MYR	13.2327	13.1888	13.1555
6.6129	6.6174	HKD	6.4927	6.4712	6.4574
13.7598	13.7792	SAR	13.4430	13.3995	13.3645
14.0620	14.0716	AED	13.7210	13.6756	13.6406
0.0462	0.0462	KRW	0.0454	0.0453	0.0452
81.7553	81.8212	GBP	80.0969	79.8016	79.5106
50.0315	50.0566	EUR	48.1875	48.0278	47.9439

Usance export bills

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
50.7152	50.4023	49.9846	49.5042	48.9921	47.8126

US dollar Libor

	Buying	Selling	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	2 Months	
Cash rates	50.85	51.25	USD	6.12875	6.27125	6.49875	6.68
T.C	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

Market commentary

On Thursday, in the local forex market demand for the US dollar continued to be high. US dollar traded over Bangladesh Bank's selling rate. In the kerm market selling rate for cash US dollar was said to have traded around BDT 53.20 on high demand. On the other hand, the money market was moderate.

In the international market, US dollar traded in a narrow range against major currencies as the apprehension of further movement in US stock markets kept the investors sidelined. Speculation that the meeting of European finance ministers this weekend in Lisbon might provide euro supportive comments also added to the market's lethargic tone. On the other hand, BOJ intervention fears kept yen stagnant.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 6.4.2000

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of Leaving arrival
J/1	Kengtung	GI	Yang	Everett	1/4 6/4
J/2	Triumph Hongkong	GI(ST.C)	Sing	RML	4/4 7/4
J/3	Martina	Rice(P)/GI	Yang	SMSL	30/3 8/4
J/4	Huai Yang	GI	Chin	Prog	18/3 6/4
J/5	Yong Jiang	GI	Sing	Bdship	28/3 10/4
J/6	Shun An(48)	GI	Mong	RML	5/4 7/4
J/7	Al Shams	C.Clink	Krabi	RML	25/3 7/4
J/10	Jurong Balsam	Cont	Sing	Nol	2/4 7/4
J/11	Lima-1	Rseed	Lapa	Seagroy	20/3 5/4
J/12	Kota bertaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(B)	1/4 6/4
OCT/1	QC pintail	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	3/4 8/4
OCT/2	Banglar Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	2/4 6/4
OCT/3	Osg Argosy	Cont	Col	Baridhi	31/3 6/4
RM/14	Ocean Line-2	Rice(P)	Kara	OWSL	16/3 10/4
RM/15	Al Muztuba	GI(BT)	B.Abb	Cla	21/3 12/4
CCJ	Banann	C.Clink	Pada	Delmure	1/4 8/4
CSJ	Banglar Kakoli	Repair	-	BSC	R/A 10/4
RM/3	Australia-II	Cdso	Toama	Seamco	15/3 7/4
RM/5	Dadabhai Naoroji	Hsd	Sing	Atlantic	31/3 -
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	Repair	-	BSC	R/A 7/4
DD	Sarah-1	Repair	-	SMSL	R/A 10/4
DDJ/1	Banglar Mookh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A 7/4
RM/9	Banglar Robi	Repair	-	BSC	R/A 15/4

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Pacific Taipan	6/4	Sing	Arafeen	P.Mat	-
Norruak Namir	5/4	-	Sentrans	Cement	-
Jaya Mars	6/4	Cbo	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Xpress Makalu (Cont) 27/3	6/4	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Tug Britoh-46	6/4	Sing	Viking	-	-
Accord	6/4	Sing	Viking	Cement	-
Giorgos	7/4	-	SBS	Cement	-
Xpress Padma (Cont) 27/3	7/4	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya (Cont) 27/3	5/4	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont	Sing
Orient Independence (Cont) 29/3	7/4	-	BD Ship	Cont	Sing
Chu Hong (Cont) 30/3	7/4	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Tiger River (Cont) 30/2	8/4	-	Nol	Cont	Sing
Jaami	9/4	Yang	Cross	Log&Pulses	-
Alpine	8/4	Yang	MSSL	GI	-
Marine Expres	9/4	-	Total	Wheat(P)	-
MaryNour	9/4	-	BSL	Cement	-
Pu Cheng	10/4	-	BSL	Cement	-
Achlevar	9/4	-	Bdship	GI	-
Qc Mallard	10/4	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Qc Teal	10/4	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Singa	11/4	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Sean hawk	12/4	-	Everett	-	-
Gotze Delchiv (48)	12/4	-	BBA	GI (St. Col)	-
Orient Tris	12/4	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Biraj	12/4	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Xpress Rsoave	13/4	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Niaga	14/4	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Da Fa	15/4	Sing	RSL	cont	Sing
Ever Wealthy	17/4	-	JF	Vehi	-
San Pablo (Roro) 24/30/3	21/4	-	JF	Vehi	-
Spring Trader	22/4	-	Everett	GI	-
Orient Lila	24/4	-	Everett	GI	-
Bright Pescadores	24/4	-	Everett	GI	-

Tanker due

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Amer Energy	7/4	-	Atlantic	HSD/JP-1
Spiros	14/4	Jebel	BSL	Crude Oil

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	BBAL	5/1
Ismaya	-	-	BBAL	17/8
MFB Devi Matha	-	-	BBAL	24/10
MFB Sona	-	-	BAAL	24/10
MFB Lakshmi	-	-	BBAL	24/10
Barge Cok-6	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Tug Magarita	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/11)
Tug Dharma Sakti-108	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/11)
SMT Lloyd-71	-	-	BBAL	R/A (28/3)
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (27/2)
Dea Champion	-	-	Arafeen	R/A (18/3)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Asha Manan	R Phos	Shen	Seacoast	26/3
Prosperitas	CDSO	MAD	Rainbow	27/3
Performance-9	CPO	Pena	TSL	29/3
Chemshion	CPO	Palw	Rainbow	31/3
Banga Biloy	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	5/4
De Dong Gang	Sugar(G)	Laem	CCNL	4/4

Vessels not ready

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Agin Dyanhi	Wheat(P)	Hand	Angelic	3/4
Al Sabyah	HSD	Kuwa	ECSL	4/4
Ocean Prayer	GI	B.Abb	SBS	4/4
DuMan Gong	Rice(P)	Hochi	Total	4/4
Sadan Kaytanouglu	Wheat(P)	P.Sadia	Rainbow	5/4
Won Ban	GI(Ym)	Xing	Total	5/4

Vessels awaiting instruction

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Xing Ye	Rice(G)	-	MHCSL	R/A (20/6)
Banglar Gourabs	-	-	-	R/A (9/10)
Banglar Urmi	-	-	BSC	R/A (18/3)
Banglar Shourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A (1/1)
Manglar Mamata	-	-	BSC	R/A (26/3)
Banglar Moni	Ballast	Mong	BSC	(19/3)
Dea Conqueror	P.Mat	Sing	Arafeen	2/4
North star-II	-	-	CCNL	R/A (10/3)

Vessels not entering

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Al Bauraq	Cement	Pada	Viking	29/3
Rich Deltty	Cement	Pada	Sentrans	2/4
Daebio Gemma	GI(peas)	-	Seagroy	R/A (28/3)
Trias	Cement	Zaka	Jaycee	1/4
Seonall	-	-	OWSL	R/A (25/3)
Edovia	Scraping	Kilar	Umil	1/4
Revenge	Scraping	Khar	Umil	1/4
Karya Sentosa	Rice (G)	-	USTC	R/A (18/9)

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
Department of Social Services
Office of the Deputy Superintendent
Government Shishu Sadan, Sadar (Girls) Chittagong
Tender Notice

Memo No GSS/Ctg/36/2000 Dated: 23/3/2000

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide contractors/suppliers for supplying Ka section — food and food stuff for the inmates, Kha section — clothes, beds, crockeries and miscellaneous goods, Ga section — office accessories, Kha section — furniture and repairing for Government Shishu Sadan, Sadar, Nasirabad Housing Society, Road No-3, Chittagong under the Department of Social Services for a period of 1 (one) year from 1-7-2000 to 30-6-2001. Schedules for the tenders and terms and conditions will be available till 13-4-2000 on all working days from 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM from the offices of the establishments concerned and office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner's (general), Chittagong, Deputy Director, District Social Services Office, Chittagong on payment of Taka 400/- (four hundred) (non-refundable together for each section). Tenders will be received on 17-4-2000 till 12:00 Noon in the tender box kept at the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (general), Chittagong and Deputy Director, District Social Services Department, Chittagong and will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM before the tenderers present (if anyone remains present) in the office of the Additional Deputy Commissioner (general), Chittagong.

It is mentionable that before and at the time of receiving tender schedule and terms and conditions, all certificates regarding contractorship (Trade licence, bank solvency certificate, experience certificate for supply of food and other goods, character certificate (up-to-date) and original certificate of income tax will have to be produced and attested photocopies of the certificates will have to be deposited with the tender. No schedule and terms and conditions will be supplied on the day of tender.

The tender committee reserves the absolute power to accept or reject any tender without assigning any reason.

Neli Dutta
Deputy Superintendent
Government Shishu Sadan
Sadar (Girls)
Chittagong.

DFP-7460-2/4
G-617

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H
Road Division, Brahmanbaria

Quotation Notice (3rd Call)

- Quotation notice : 03/EERHD, B-baria 1999-2000.
- Name of work : Quotation notice for realising charge through lease for crossing vehicles etc. (with the supply of lubricant by the leasee) at Ashuganj-Bhairab Ferry Ghat under Brahmanbaria Road Division during 2000-2001 fiscal year.
- Earnest money : 2% of the money as quoted in the quotation in the form of BD/CDR/Pay Order from any scheduled bank in favour of the undersigned will have to be deposited with tender.
- Name of offices where quotation documents will be available : Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Comilla/Chandpur/Planning & Design Division, Comilla/Planning Division-1 (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka and all the offices of the Sub-Divisional Engineers under this Division and the office of the undersigned.
- Name of offices where quotation will be received : Divisional Commissioner, Chittagong/Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Comilla Zone, Comilla/Superintending Engineer, R&H, Road Circle, Comilla/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka and the office of the undersigned.
- Cost of quotation schedule : Taka 2000/- (two thousand) (non-refundable) per set.
- Specific time for realising toll : For 2000-2001 fiscal year.
- Last date and time of selling quotation : 12-04-2000 during office hours.
- Last date and time of receiving quotation : 13-4-2000 at 12-30 PM.
- Date fixed for opening quotation with time : 19-4-2000 at 11:00 AM.
- Date and time of lottery : 19-4-2000 at 4-00 PM (if necessary).
- Eligibility of contractors : Reputed persons, contractors and trading establishments.

Md Abdus Salam
Executive Engineer, R&H
Road Division, Brahmanbaria.

DFP-7390-30/3
G-607

Meet on promoting partnership development held

A partnership development meeting was held yesterday among the officials of the old Dhaka-based Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners Association (BEIOA), Promotion of Private Sector (PPS), Component B project of the German Technical Cooperation (GTZ) and Centre for Human Excellence (CENCE) — a national non-profit organisation committed to developing human resources in the SME sector in Bangladesh, says a press release.

With a view to promoting this important but much-neglected local light engineering sector, the parties concerned identified several areas for ensuring collaboration. These include providing organisational strengthening services to the Association, offering CEFE entrepreneurship development and other modular courses for member institutions, designing and conducting need-based short courses on a wide range of topics for individual members, providing counseling services for troubled units, linking the Association with other supporting institutions and development agencies at home and abroad.

The meeting was attended, among others, by Abdur Razaque, President, Bangladesh Engineering Industry Owners' Association, Ricarda Weidinger, Project Advisor, Promotion of Private Sector, Component-B GTZ, and Kazi Borhan Amin, Director (Finance), CENCE.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Local Government Engineering Department
Project for Constructing Ten Rubber Dams on the Small and Medium Rivers

LGED Bhaban (Level-11), Agargaon
Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka-1207

Memo No-LGED/PO/Rubber Dam/C-02/2000/175 Dated: 23/03/2000

Tender Notice

Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2908 in sealed envelopes are invited from bonafide supplier establishments for supplying computers, laser printers, and UPS for the work of a project for constructing ten rubber dams on the small and medium rivers under Local Government Engineering Department financed by the government of Bangladesh. Tender schedule containing detailed information can be procured from the office of the undersigned till 12-04-2000 during office hours on payment of Taka 300.00 in cash non-refundable. Tender can be submitted in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned till 1-00 pm on 13-04-2000 and will be opened on the same day at 1-30 pm before the tenderers present (if any one remains present).

Md Nurul Islam
Project Director
Phone: 9127411

DFP-7409-30/3
G-608

Bangladesh Forest Industries Development Corporation
Eastern Wood Works