

Japan extends debt relief to world's poorest nations

TOKYO, Apr 10: Japan boosted its debt-relief programme Monday to 100 per cent of the money owed to it by the world's poorest nations, the Foreign Ministry said, reports AP.

The announcement, just months before Japan hosts the Group of Eight summit of industrialised countries in July, affects loans that aren't part of Japan's Official Development Assistance loans.

Japan has already forgiven 100 per cent of its Official Development Assistance loans. The debt-relief programme applies to 40 heavily indebted countries.

Monday's move increases the percentage of loans to be forgiven from 90 per cent to 100 per cent, a ministry statement said. Such loans are for trade insurance or are extended by public entities such as export-import banks.

Tokyo also pledged further

contributions to the World Bank debt-relief fund, bringing its contribution to \$ 200 million, government officials said.

"As the chairman of the G-8 summit, we have the responsibility to make a contribution and invite other members to do the same or more," said Kazuhiko Koshikawa, spokesman for Prime Minister Yoshiro Mori.

Koshikawa also said that all other Group of Seven major industrialised nations except Germany — the United States, Britain, France, Canada and Italy — have announced their debt-relief measures already. The G-8 also includes Russia.

Japan's announcement expanded the commitment made last year at the G-8 summit in Cologne, Germany, where the world's wealthiest countries agreed to offer about \$90 billion in debt relief to the poorest countries.

Meanwhile, a report from Washington says: A rally to

show solidarity with debt-ridden countries launched a series of events — including possible civil disobedience — meant to draw attention to meetings here next week of the World Bank and International Monetary Fund.

Thousands of people clasped hands to form a human chain at the Capitol on Sunday in a show of solidarity with countries they say are trapped in poverty because of the loans they must repay to US-based world lending institutions.

"The countries, they can't spend any money on education and health care because they can't pay off the debt," said Andrew Laurence, a media coordinator at George Washington University, who participated. "The idea is to buy the debt." He walked up and down the gravel paths of the National Mall in a costume that was a cross between the Washington Monument and a tombstone.

The World Bank and the IMF already have a debt-relief programme that will forgive some \$27 billion owed by poor countries, including Uganda, Bolivia, and Mozambique, which recently suffered through severe flooding. But the rally's organisers want the programme to be expanded.

Jo Marie Griesgraber, head of a coalition of religious, environmental and labour groups called Jubilee 2000/USA, said the amount of money the group seeks for debt relief works out to about \$8 per American. "Congress is the only body that can pay for it," she said.

President Bill Clinton, in a message read by his economic adviser Gene Sperling, said that in the poorer countries one in 10 children dies before his or her first birthday, one in three children is malnourished and the average adult has only three years of schooling.

"This is wrong," said Clinton, who has requested \$ 210 million for debt relief.



Picture shows (from left to right) Mudassar M. Moin, M Ismail, Managing Director, RDL, Niaz Rahim, Director, Rahimafrooz Bangladesh Ltd, Falaudun Haider, Marketing Manager, MPL, JJ Waseemuddin, Country Manager, BP Middle East, Md. Tabibar Rahman, General Manager, MPL, GM Kawser, Vice President-Marketing, RDL, and Jalil, Consultant to BP Middle East, at the deal signing ceremony which gives Rahimafrooz the right to sell and distribute BP products in Bangladesh.

— United photo

Rahimafrooz to sell, distribute BP products

Star Business Report

Rahimafrooz Distribution Limited (RDL) has agreed to sell and distribute British Petroleum products.

The company will make the sales through its existing channel of dealers all over Bangladesh, says a press release.

An agreement to this effect was signed between the Meghna Petroleum Limited (MPL) and Rahimafrooz Distribution Limited in the city recently.

Meghna Petroleum Limited is the exclusive dealer of British Petroleum in Bangladesh. M Ismail, Managing Director of RDL, and Md Tabibar Rahman, General Manager of MPL, initialled the agreement on behalf of their organisations. Senior officials from both the organisations and BP country representatives were also present on the occasion.

DCCI course on business communication in city

A 5-day training course on 'Effective Business Communication' organised by Human Resources Development Programme of the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce & Industry (DCCI), began at its Training Centre Sunday, says a press release.

While inaugurating the training course, Senior Vice-President of DCCI A M Mubash-Shar emphasised on effective business communication for business promotion both at home and abroad. He said with the changing scenario of trade and commerce under the present free market economy, English has become a global language, adding that to be competitive in the global market, our business community must be conversant in English. He finally called upon the participants to utilise their knowledge professionally.

Welcoming the participants to the training course, Emdadul Hoque, Project Manager of Business Advisory Service (BAS) Project, gave a brief resume of DCCI Training Centre while DCCI Secretary Mirza A Matin described the role of DCCI in the promotion of trade and commerce in Bangladesh.

The course aimed at familiarising participants with the following topics: Communication in business, How to make communication more effective? Written communication and its importance in business, Banking correspondence in good business, Oral communication: How to make successful and good presentation? Effective telephonic procedure, Role of meeting in business, Technique of conducting successful meetings, Use of different media, Communication process of trade, inquiry, quotation order, invoice etc and correctness in writing.

Mexican Bancomex official says Asians need to trade more outside region

SINGAPORE, Apr 10: Asian countries should focus more on trading outside their region, the deputy president of Mexico's bank for foreign trade said Monday, reports AP.

"If we just look towards trading with the United States and Latin countries, and Asian countries only look at Asia, that would not be helpful. We need to make the Pacific smaller," Raul Arguelles, deputy president for Bancomex, said.

Arguelles is in Singapore attending Asia-Mexico 2000 Business Meeting, a series of business forums the Mexican government is conducting in Asia. He is accompanied by 14 Mexican government and business officials, including representatives from the Mexican Trade Commission.

Mexico expects trade with Asia to go up with Asia's continued recovery from the recent financial crisis, Arguelles told reporters.

"It will be difficult to measure how much more investment or trade would come out of these meetings," he said. "The message I would like to convey to you is that these meetings are most important in order to raise the level of awareness between Mexican businessmen and women and their Asian counterparts."

Arguelles said the Mexico's imports for the last year totaled US \$142 billion and 10 per cent of that came from Asia. Exports for 1999 totaled US \$136 billion, with 1.6 per cent of that going to Asia.

Singapore's minister for trade and industry, Lim Swee Say, told the conference that Mexico was well positioned to

play a greater regional role.

As of 1999, Singapore businesses had invested US \$110 million in Mexico, Lim said, adding that Singapore and Mexico would begin negotiations on a bilateral free trade agreement in July this year.

Singapore will also open a trade office in Mexico in May, he said.

"Mexico is Singapore's largest trading partner in Latin America, and Singapore is Mexico's largest trading partner in Southeast Asia, and second largest export market in Asia," he said.

US group claims Filipino copyright piracy worsening

MANILA, Apr 10: A coalition of seven trade associations representing US copyright-based industries has petitioned the US government to put the Philippines back on the list of the world's worst violators of intellectual property rights because of the proliferation of bootlegged video compact discs and CD-ROMs, says AP.

The Philippines was removed from the category three years ago after the passage of the country's Intellectual Property Rights Code of 1997, which imposed hefty fines and imprisonment on transgressors.

If the Philippines is put back in the watch list, it would mean stricter monitoring and stiffer penalties from the US government.

Exchange Rates

Following are yesterday's Standard Chartered Bank foreign exchange rates of major currencies against Taka.

Central Bank USD/BDT rate: Buying-BDT 50.85/Selling-BDT 51.15

TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight	OD Transfer
51.2250	51.2600	USD	50.8200	50.8516	50.8531
0.4813	0.4817	JPY	0.4710	0.4695	0.4697
31.4264	31.4479	CHF	30.5960	30.4945	30.3965
30.3682	30.3889	SGD	29.0766	28.9902	28.9206
35.6348	35.6591	CAD	34.3727	34.2588	34.1297
5.9098	5.9438	SEK	5.8209	5.8146	5.8024
31.6571	31.6787	AUD	28.8149	28.7194	28.5175
13.6240	13.6333	MYR	13.2340	13.1902	13.1599
6.6126	6.6171	HKD	6.4924	6.4709	6.4571
13.7687	13.7781	SAR	13.4420	13.3974	13.3534
14.0620	14.0716	AED	13.7210	13.6756	13.6406
0.0465	0.0465	KRW	0.0457	0.0455	0.0454
81.4375	81.4391	GBP	79.7264	79.4222	79.1717
49.6626	49.6966	EUR	47.7962	47.6378	47.5546

Usance export bills

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
50.7152	50.4223	49.9646	49.5042	48.9821	47.8126

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Mal Ringit	Indo Rupiah	Sing Dollar
43.57/43.67	51.89/51.90	37.95/38.01	3.7999/0.1	765.07/680	0.4955/65

US dollar

T C	506	512	GBP	6.10016	6.31031	65	6.90989
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Market commentary

On Monday, in the local foreign exchange market, demand for US dollar was high. Call

Market commentary

On Monday, in the local foreign exchange market, demand for US dollar was high. Call money market went up due to payment against Treasury bills worth of BDT 11.875 million. Call rate ranged between 6 and 7 per cent. In the inter bank market, US dollar continued to trade above BDT 51.

In the international markets, Japanese yen fell to its lowest levels in nearly two weeks against US dollar and euro as fears that G7 countries would reiterate Japan's concern about the strength of yen. Meanwhile euro was on a firm footing above 0.9570 against US dollar and had recovered losses that had brought it within sight of one-week lows around 0.9535/40 earlier in the trade. Market expectation that European Central Bank might hike its interest rate also supported euro.



Ali Hussain Al-Sammak, the newly-appointed Ambassador of Kuwait, called on Abdul Awal Minto, President of the Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FBCCI) at Federation Office on Monday. They reviewed the existing commercial and economic cooperation between the two countries attaching priority to expansion of bilateral trade. Ainul Hoque Sohel, Director of FBCCI, was also present. —FBCCI photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Local Government Engineering Department
District: Kishoregonj

Memo No: LGED/EE/KISHOR/1375 Date: 30/3/2000

Re-Tender Notice No. 4/1999-2000 (RDP-21)(5th Call)

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh form No 2911 for implementation of the following schemes listed here under, Rural Development Project-21, LGED (FY: 1999-2000) of Local Government Engineering Department from the pre-qualified contractor/construction firm of Rural Development Project-21 (TRDP) renewed for the year 1999-2000 (according to financial capacity). The tender documents and terms & conditions can be seen during office hour of the concerned office.

- Purchasing and submission of tender documents
 - Commissioner Office, Dhaka Division, Dhaka.
 - Project Director Office, Rural Development Project-21, Local Government Engineering Deptt., LGED Bhaban, Agargaon, Sher-e-Banglanagar, Dhaka-1207.
 - Deputy Commissioner Office, Kishoregonj.
 - Deputy Project Director Office, Mymensingh/Rangpur Region, Rural Development Project-21, Local Government Engineering Department, Mymensingh/Rangpur.
 - Executive Engineer Office, Local Government Engineering Department, District: Kishoregonj/Mymensingh/Netrakona/Jamalpur/Sherpur/Panchagarh/Thakurgaon/Dinajpur/Rangpur/Gaibandha/Kurigram/Nilphamari/Lalmonirhat.
 - Thana Engineer Office, LGED, Thana: Karimgonj.
- Last date of tender: 18th April, 2000 during office hour.
- Date & time of tender: 19th April, 2000 up to 1:00 pm.
- Date & time of tender: 19th April, 2000 at 1:30 pm in above mentioned offices in presence of the tenderer or their authorised representative (if they are intended to be present).

- List of schemes:

No	Code No & Gr No	Name of work with location	Earnest money	Price of tender documents	Time allowed	Class of contractor	Remark
1	990013/K AR-1/Kis	(a) Const of Pavement work on Karimgonj-Gundhar Road from Ch 9600.00-11250.00m, (b) Const of 6 Nos 600mm dia pipe culvert on Karimgonj-Gundhar Road, (c) Const of Toe-wall on Karimgonj-Gundhar Road under Karimgonj thana	2.5% of quoted amount	Tk 2500.00	180 days	Pre-qualified contractor of RDP-21 (according to financial capacity)	5th call.

- The tenderer must quote their rate of item including the cost of all laboratory tests, cost of mobilisation, materials, equipments construction of temporary shed at site, de-mobilisation and clearing the work site etc. No separate item will be entertained for such nature of work. No separate rate should be quoted for shoring, de-watering, ring bund and artificial island but cost of the same should be included in the item of earth work.
- No additional work will be allowed.
- If the contractor fails to start the work within 10 (ten) days of issuance of work order, action will be taken for cancellation of work order.
- Any case of sub-letting and syndicating by any contractor/firm will cause their pre-qualification to be cancelled.
- The tenderer shall have to submit the detail analysis of quoted rate of each item along with the tender documents. Otherwise the tender will be cancelled outright. Photocopy/carbon copy of analysis will not be accepted.
- Earnest money @ 2.5% (two point five per cent) of the quoted amount have to be submitted in favour of Executive Engineer, LGED, Kishoregonj in the form of BD/Pay Order from any schedule bank of Bangladesh.
- The tenderer shall have to submit attested photocopies of renewed pre-qualification, new VAT registration certificate (having 10 digit identification number), TIN certificate with tender documents. Otherwise the tender will be summarily rejected. Application form for new VAT registration will not be accepted.
- VAT, IT and other overhead charges/taxes will be deducted from the contractors bill amount as per Govt rules.
- The project which undertaken the foreign aided payment will be made when the fund will be available.
- Any erasing, tempering etc will not be acceptable in the tender documents unless it is initiated by tenderer.
- The tenderer must sign on all pages of tender documents.
- The tender documents shall consist of: (a) Tender Notice (b) Form No 2911 (c) Additional terms and conditions (d) Schedule of item of works (e) Specifications of works (f) Instruction to tenderer. (g) Conditions of contract (h) Test frequency & fee chart.
- The tenderer himself or his authorised representative will purchase the tender document.
- The tenderers must have to submit duplicate tender, otherwise the tender will be declared informal.

The following additional terms & conditions will be the part of the tender documents:

- The tenderer must quote their rate of item including the cost of all laboratory tests, cost of mobilisation, materials, equipments construction of temporary shed at site, de-mobilisation and clearing the work site etc. No separate item will be entertained for such nature of work. No separate rate should be quoted for shoring, de-watering, ring bund and artificial island but cost of the same should be included in the item of earth work.
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The authority reserves the right to accept any one or reject all or any tender without assigning any reason thereof.

MD Shahidul Hoque
Executive Engineer
LGED, Kishoregonj

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

(পানির অপচয় রোধে কাজ শেষে কলের মুখ বন্ধ করুন)

Tenders are invited for 1st class civil contractors enlisted with Dhaka WASA for constructing delivery and washout line of 5 deep-tubewells installed at various sites of the Dhaka Metropolitan area under the Interim Project-4. The amount of estimated money for the work is — 24,31,553/=. Tenders will be received till 12-00 Noon on 24/4/2000 and will be opened the same day at 2-30 pm before tenderers or their nominated representatives (if anyone remains present). Schedule of tender will be available in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue and all MODS Zone offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Address: "WASA Bhaban"
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.
WASA-PI-112/2000
DFP-7810-5/4
G-646

AKM Zafarullah
Project Director,
Interim Project-4
Dhaka WASA.

5-member Kuwait Fund team due April 16

A five-member delegation of Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development (KFAED) will arrive in Dhaka on April 16 on a fortnight official visit to Bangladesh, reports BSS.

All Hussain Al-Sammak, the Kuwaiti ambassador to Bangladesh, said the team will make an appraisal of the Greater Chittagong Power Distribution (Phase-3) Project. They will also meet concerned officials of the External Resources Division and the Power Development Board.

The visit is a follow up of the loan agreement signed between the two countries in Kuwait in November last under which KFAED has agreed to finance the Greater Chittagong Power Distribution Project.

The Kuwait Fund has already financed 13 projects in energy, transport and communications and agriculture sectors in Bangladesh, totalling KD 73.984 million which is equivalent to US\$ 244.147 million.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, R&H Jhalakathi Road Division

Quotation Notice for Lease of Ferry of the Roads & Highways Department

- Quotation Notice: 08/JRD of 2000-2001 year.
- Name of work: Call for lease for realising toll at Gabkhan Ferry Ghat situated on the 22nd KM of Barisal-Jhalakathi-Bhandaria-Pirojpur Road under Jhalakathi Road Division during 2000-2001 year.
- Earnest money: 10% (ten per cent) of quoted rate.
- Those who can participate in lease call: 'A' to 'C' classes of contractors of R&H Department, bonafide citizens of Bangladesh and contractors of all establishments.
- Time limit for lease: 1-7-2000 to 30-06-2001 till 12-00 Noon.
- Offices in which quotation schedule of lease call will be available: Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Jhalakathi/Barisal/Pirojpur/Patuaakhali/Bhola/Barguna/Planning Division, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H), Road Sub-Division, Jhalakathi.
- Offices in which quotation of lease call will be received in sealed condition: Additional Chief Engineer, R&H, Barisal Zone, Barisal/Divisional Commissioner, Barisal/ Superintending Engineer, R&H, Road Circle, Barisal/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer, R&H, Road Division, Jhalakathi/Barisal/Pirojpur.
- Last date and time of selling quotation of lease call: 18-04-2000 till 5-00 PM.
- Date and time of receiving quotation in sealed condition: 19-04-2000 at 12-30 PM.
- Date and time of filing quotation in sealed condition: 19-04-2000 at 12-45 PM.
- Date and time of opening quotation: 25-04-2000 at 11-00 AM.

DFP-8066-6/4
G-643

MD Nurul Huda Mollah
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Jhalakathi Road Division