WorldCom to

market AOL

service

25; WorldCom Inc will market

America Online Inc's Internet

service to millions of its resi-

dential, local and long-distance

telephone customers in the US,

under a deal announced by both

tomers an hour of free long dis-

tance each month when they

sign up for AOL's service.

vice, behind AT-and-T.

pared statement.

its UUNet subsidiary.

WorldCom agreed to give cus-

AOL is the largest online

"Building on the existing re-

network in the US WorldCom is

the nation's second-largest

provider of long-distance ser-

lationship with AOL and

WorldCom, this alliance widens

the door for future WorldCom

consumer initiatives with

AOL," Terry Macko, WorldCom

senior vice president of market-

ing said Wednesday in a pre-

share an agreement that allows

WorldCom to handle most of

AOL's Internet traffic through

with Vector Money Manage-

ment, said the deal may ease

about WorldCom's \$115 billion

proposed merger with Sprint

Corp, which holds a stake in

Ashby Foote, and analysts

The two companies already

companies, says AP.

JACKSON, Mississippi, May

Pakistan to conduct tax survey despite protests

Move to bring black economy into tax net

ISLAMABAD, May 25: Pakistan's government vowed Wednesday to press ahead with a weekend tax survey, despite bitter opposition from traders and business to the most radical modernisation move since the army seized power last October, reports Reuters.

A spokesman for the Central Board of Revenue (CBR) said the survey would take place on Saturday as planned, brushing aside speculation that a nationwide three-day traders strike last weekend might have forced the government to back

He said the survey, the first step towards bringing a huge black economy into the tax net. was vital to protect economic sovereignty "and it will take place without fail."

The survey is seen as crucial to Pakistan's attempts to document the black economy. broaden a puny tax base and secure a \$2.2 billion IMF credit

which is under negotiation. But retailers and businessmen are up in arms and traders have vowed to hold another strike on the day the survey is to be conducted by the army, and to refuse to fill in the

DFP-12515-22/5

Tender Notice No.

Name of work

Earnest money

Time allowed

Eligibility of contractor

Traders and businessmen say that the survey will make them vulnerable to "corrupt" tax officials who might try to extort bribes rather than collect

They also complain that many traders are not fully literate, will have problems with the forms and have little formal accounting knowledge.

Pakistan's top business body, the Federation of Pakistan Chambers of Commerce and Industry, said the survey should be delayed because of concerns that it would cause harassment by tax officials.

"The meeting reiterated that in view of the state of harassment ... the proposed tax and property survey be put off till such time an amicable solution in consultation with the business community is reached," it

said in a statement. The CBR spokesmen denied rumours current in major towns that the survey was being postponed after traders closed their shops across the country last weekend in a show of oppo-

Some of these rumours are failed to meet targets, including obviously being spread by quar- the imposition of a GST at the ters that do not want documentation of the economy and are tax base

bent upon creating fears and misgivings," the spokesman

The government of prime minister Nawaz Sharif, ousted in the coup that brought General Pervez Musharraf to power. caved in to the traders and scrapped plans to introduce a General Sales (Tax (GST), opting for a self-assessed levy instead.

Tax collection — or the absence of it — is the traditional weakness of the Pakistani economy, which has accumulated a \$38 billion foreign debt but failed to sustain economic growth.

Less than one per cent of Pakistan's 135 million people pay tax and the informal economy is thought to equal or outstrip the official one.

Finance Minister Shaukat Aziz has promised to make the tax survey as simple as possible | regulators' antitrust concerns and will unveil details in a Friday news conference, the CBR spokesman said.

A previous \$1.56 billion IMF EarthLink, the nation's secondloan was suspended last year largest online service. when the Sharif government WorldCom is a global telecommunications company with annual revenue of more retail level and expanding the than \$37 billion and operations in more than 65 countries.

Microsoft may face 3-way split

SAN FRANCISCO, May 25: Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson stunned courtroom observers yesterday by suggesting that it might not be enough to split Microsoft Corp. into two parts, and that a three-way division could be required in the landmark anti-trust case, reports Reuters.

But industry and legal sources said that such a move would be unlikely, since it would require the software giant to set up a stand-alone browser company whose prospects would be doubtful. In addition, the judge is not likely to override the government prosecutor's extensive work in proposing a remedy involving a two-way split.

Jackson ruled last March that Microsoft abused its monopoly power and he is now considering the government's breakup plan, along with other alternatives remedies. The judge can propose his own plan or follow the prosecutors' proposal.

"Perhaps what he was signalling that he is ready to accept a breakup," said Jonathan Baker, a law professor at American University and a former Federal Trade Commission chief economist.

During the hearing, though, Jackson criticised the government proposal to separate Microsoft into an operating system company and application

software company, saying, "A bisection will in effect create

two separate monopolies." He cited as an "excellent brief" a 65-page friend-of-thecourt filing submitted by the software and Information Industry Association in February calling for the browser business to be separated as well. That proposal led to Microsoft quitting as a longtime member of

the trade group in protest. But the Industry group's proposal had been considered a more draconian solution, and the government said in the hearings that it had avoided that solution because such a plan might not work.

"It's completely nonsensical form a business and a technology perspective," agreed Harry Fenick, an industry analyst with Zona Research. "There is no business model for a browser as a standalone entity."

The browser, the essential piece of software for navigating on the Internet, is central to the Microsoft case. Microsoft launched its Internet Explorer browser and overtook the Netscape's navigator as the industry leader, allegedly by using its monopoly position.

But in the fierce competition. Netscape and Microsoft both have struggled to make their browser units profitable since the software is mostly given away free or at very low

Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Currency Buying Buying BC TT & OD OD Sight Export Bill Transfer US Dollar 51.2300 51.2700 50.6570 50.8100 50.5850 75.9052 74.6653 Pound Stg 75.8460 74 4405 743347 24.1011 Deutsche Mark 24.0823 23.0925 23.0230 22.9902 29.9247 29.9014 29,2971 Swiss Franc 29.2089 29.1674 0.4783 0.4787 0.4695 0.4681 Japanese Yen 0.4675 21.3901 21.3734 Dutch Guilder 20.4950 20.4333 20 4042 Danish Krona 6.2505 6.2554 6.1224 6.1039 6.0952 29.7725 29.7493 28.3781 Australian \$ 28.4638 28.3377 1.1685 Belgian Franc 1.1676 1.1196 1.1162 1.1147 34.2561 34.2828 33.2853 33.1851 Canadian \$ 33.1379 French Franc 7.1805 7.1861 6.8854 6.4885 6.4793 6.5881 Hong Kong \$ 6.5932 6.5081 6.4885 6.4793 0.0243 0.0233 0.0243 0.0233 Italian Lira 0.0232 5.6316 5.5403 5.5236 Norway Krone 5.6272 5.5158 Singapore \$ 29.8950 28.9351 28.8479 29.8717 28.8069 13.7071 Saudi Rial 18.5108 13.6964 13.4701 13,4510 13.9975 UAE Dirham 13.7954 13.9866 13.7539 13.7344 5.5855 Swedish Krona 5.5812 5.5132 5.4966 5,4888 Qatari Riyal 13.9167 14.1259 13.8748 13.8551 172.0123 171.8781 159.1936 Kuwaiti Dinar 159.6744 158.9673 Thai Baht 1.3064 1.2924 1.2885 1.3054 1.2867 47.1009 47.1376 45.0290 44.9650

Bill buying rates TT Doc 30 Days 60 Days 90 Days 120 Days | 180 Days 50.3866 49.1163 48.2695 49.9632 49.5398 US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR) 6 Months | 9 Months | 12 Months 6.61000 | 6.82000 | 7.04250 74.334 | 75.8460 | GBP 6.13125 | 6.25500 | 6.41828 6.56031 6.68063 Cash/ Cash/ EURO 4.25000 4.46375 4.65563 4.85813 4.96250 Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars Malaysian Indonesian Pak Rupee | Thai Baht Korean Rupiah Wan

Amex notes on Thursday's market The USD/BDT market was very active on Thursday. USD/BDT rate touched as high as 51.2400. Demand for US dollar was extremely high against very low supply. Major players refrained from supplying USD into the market as they made large L/C payments. Average USD/BDT rate ranged between 51.22-51.2400. Call money market was active and call rates were a little up from yesterday's level. Average call rates ranged between 7.50 and 8.00 per cent.

3 7995/3 8006 | 8430/8460

1129.8/1129.9

Date of Leaving

arrival

4.44/44.49 51.985/51.90 39.10/39.15

The euro came under pressure against other major currencies on Thursday, as market awaited nervously the outcome of the first European Central Bank policy meeting after a recent US monetary tightening. Widespread sentiment that the ECB would not be able to match the Fed coupled with the Euro's inability to vault a chart barrier this week encouraged euro bears to push the euro below \$0.9020/10, a move which triggered some stop-loss orders. By 0715 GMT, the euro was hovering near session lows around \$0.90. It was still more than a cent away from recent record lows around \$0.8845. Euro/sterling, one of the biggest movers in recent days along with sterling/dollar, was testing support at 61 pence, down almost one penny from Wednesday's two-month peaks around 61.90. Only a surprise 50 basis point interest rate increase would lift the single currency significantly.

Meanwhile the dollar managed to hold onto this week's gains against the yen and was hovering near 107 80 after setting six-day highs just below 108 earlier in Asian trading. The dollar had jumped on Wednesday on a report in the New York Times that Japan's Economic Planning Agency had manipulated data on gross domestic product to make the county's economy look better. The EPA denied the story on Thursday, but market players in Tokyo said the market had already digested the report about the country's notoriously inaccurate economic indicators and was still sticking to the view that Japanese economy was on a recovery path.

Sterling/dollar quarter cent below day's highs around \$1.4800, on the back of

At around 0950 GMT the exchange rates of major currencies against USD were GBP/USD 1.4756/1.4766, USD/CHF 1.7278/1.7288, USD/JPY 107.73/107.78, EUR/USD 0.9029/0.9034.

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 25.5.2000:

Shipping Intelligence

Berth Name of vessels Cargo L. Port

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Directorate General of Health Services

Central Medical Stores Depot

30, Shaheed Tajuddin Sharoni Tejgaon, Dhaka

Tender Notice

The Director, Stores & Supplies, Dte. General of Health Services, CMSD, Tejgaon, Dhaka invites a tender for Procurement of "Duo Derm Extra Thin Elastomeric Matrix Dressing against MSR fund during the year 1999-2000. The particulars of tenders are as under:

Tender No. & date Brief description | Value of tender Date of dropping & schedule (nonof stores opening of tender refundable) HS/S-IX/Ela Matrix Duo Derm Extra Tk 750.00 Dropping by 11:00 AM Thin Elastomeric (Seven hundred on 19.6.2000 Dressing /10/99-2000 Dated 16.5.2000 Opening on 19.06.2000 Matrix Dressing fifty) at 11:30 AM.

The tender documents shall be obtained from the office of the undersigned in all working days during office hours.

The schedule value must be paid to the Bangladesh Bank against Head of Account Code No. 1-2711-0000-2023 (non-refundable) through Treasury Challan & original copy of which must be submitted by a forwarding letter in bidders own letter pad for obtaining the tender schedule. The tender schedule will not be sold on the dropping date.

Brig Md Shamsul Islam Director, Stores & Supplies CMSD, Tejgaon, Dhaka Phone No. 8115479



cheque worth Tk 2,18,018 to Mrs Sultana, nominee and mother of deceased policyholder Monirul Islam of Nazira Bazar, Dhaka, at the central office of the company recently. Kazi Abdul Halim, SVP (Servicing, Claim & PR), Syed A K Aminul Haque, VP (Claims), and JSVP (Dev) M A Hai are also seen in the picture. - Delta Life photo

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka

RHD Notice Inviting Tender

01/1999-2000 DRC Construction of 415-metre long prestressed concrete girder bridge over the river Sitalakhya on Joydevpur-Debogram-Bhulta-Nayapur-Madanpur Road under Road Division, Narayangani during the year 1999-2000

Tk. 150.00 Lacs (Taka one hundred & fifty lacs only) in BD/CD/TC/Bonus/Pratirakhya Sanchay Patra from any scheduled bank with validity of minimum 180 (one hundred & eighty) days from the date of receipt of tender in favour of Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Narayanganj. 1095 days from the date of issue of work order Local contractors enlisted with RHD as "A-Special" category who have past experience of constructing at least one 175 (one hundred

seventy-five) metre long two lane multi span prestressed concrete girder bridge under RHD in which one span must be minimum 40-metre long. In this regard experience certificate must be submitted from RHD concerned Executive Engineer along with tender. Local contractors enlisted with RHD as "A-Special" category (a) who have past experience of constructing at least one 175 (one hundred seventy-five) metre long two lane multi span prestressed concrete girder bridge under RHD. And (b) who have past experience of constructing at least one prestressed concrete girder bridge of minimum 40-metre long span under RHD. In this regard experience

certificate must be submitted from RHD concerned Executive Engineer along with tender. Joint venture (not more than two) of both "A" special category will be allowed to participate in the tender while one of the firm must have experience mentioned in (I) Or (II) above. Memorandum of association of joint-venture will have to be registered by Notary Public stating responsibility of each partner with extent of share of each partner and also to be specified one as lead firm. The lead firm must have at least 51% share, however both the partner of the joint venture shall be jointly & severally responsible to execute the work if awarded. Earnest money of individual partner will not be accepted. They shall have to submit earnest money as per rule in the name of join-venture.

No partner should have less than 25% share. Joint venture of one "A" special RHD contractor & one foreign contractor having experience of constructing at least one 175 (One hundred seventy-five) metre long 2 lane multi-span prestressed concrete girder bridge and one at least 40-metre long span PC girder bridge under

similar geographical condition. In this case the lead partner must have above stipulated experience & minimum share of 51%. No partner should have less than 25% share. The contractors will submit their tenders with two separate sealed envelops, marked "A" TECHNICAL OFFER & marked "B" FINANCIAL OFFER, both stating the name of work and name of the firm on the sealed envelops. The envelop marked "A" should contain relevant documents like firm registration, validity, working experience, key personnel, requisite construction equipment time schedule (Bar

Chart), tender document, specification etc. as per tender conditions, and the other envelop marked "B" should contain bid security/earnest

Executive Engineer, RHD, Planning & Design Division, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Comilla Zone/Chittagong Zone/Rajshahi Zone/Khulna

Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Comilla Zone/Chittagong Zone/Rajshahi Zone/Khulna Zone/Barisal Zone/Rangpur

Superintending Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Road Circle/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Procurement & Monitoring

money, BOQ financial offer etc. & others as per tender. All the papers must be duly signed & filled in. Both the envelop will be received simultaneously up to the date and time specified in the tender. The envelope "A" TECHNICAL OFFER will be opened first on the date and time specified in the tender in presence of the contractor, if any, for scrutiny/evaluation in the office of

the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka The envelope marked "B" FINANCIAL OFFER of the technically responsive bidder will be opened on the date and time fixed in the tender for next step of processing. The financial offer of the technically non-responsive bidder will be returned unopened, if they request.

In case of same rate/amounts in BOQ of the responsive tenderers, lottery will be held in the office of the Superintending Engineer, RHD, Dhaka Road Circle for selection of one tenderer for the work 266 Dev.

Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Mymensingh/Kishoreganj/Tangail/Jamalpur/Netrakona/Sherpur/Rangpur/Barisal.

Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Dhaka/Narayanganj/Munshiganj/Manikganj/Gazipur/Narsingdi.

Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Dhaka/Narayanganj/Gazipur/Manikganj/Munshiganj/Narsingdi.

Zone/Barisal Zone/Rangpur Zone/Planning (Network Management & BOT)/Bridge Design Division-1 (Eastern).

Name of offices where tender

Name of offices where tender will be received

Charge to

can be purchased

Procedure of submitting tender

Last date of selling tender documents (within official hours) Date of Pre-bid meeting Last date and time of receiving

of tender Date, time & place of opening of envelope marked "A" by S.E. RHD, Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka Date, time & place of opening of envelope marked "B" by S. E. RHD, Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka Cost of tender schedule including 13-06-2000 (11 AM)

12-06-2000.

Zone, Rangpur.

Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka.

Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka.

Circle, Dhaka/Mymensingh Road Circle, Dhaka.

20-06-2000 (up to 12.30 PM), receiving officer are requested to send the sealed tenders to the Dhaka Road Circle office in time by special 27-06-2000 (at 11.00 AM).

12-07-2000 at 11.00 AM.

Tk. 2020/-

BD 2911 form Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 for the above work are hereby invited from the contractor as mentioned (basis of the eligibility of the contractor) in the tender notice and will be received by the office mentioned above on the date and time fixed for the same.

Tender documents consisting of a Bangladesh Form No. 2911 along with the notice inviting tender, Bill of quantities, additional terms and conditions, technical specifications & drawings etc. will be available for sale on the office mentioned above during the office hours on working days. The cost of BD Form 2911 each Tk. 20/- and other documents is Tk. 2000/- (non-refundable). The tenders will be opened on the date and time fixed for the same in presence of the intending tenderers or their authorised representatives who may like to remain present. Work order will be issued allocation/availability of fund.

Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Narayangani 1/2/Bhitikandi.

Superintending Engineer Dhaka Road Circle

BASC course

A 5-day customised training workshop on training of trainers (TOT) was held for the managers and officers of different business houses and NGOs in the city recently, says a press release.

The programme was organised by the Business Advisory Services Centre. Eminent resource person from India Gopal Sehjpal conducted the course.

The course provided the participants an understanding of the methodology involved in developing and conducting training programmes. The programme also helped the participants learn how to design, adopt and conduct a training course suiting their needs without compromising the objec-

A total of 14 participants from ACI, Square Pharmaceutical, Marie Stopes, Shakti Foundation, Rhone Phoulence Rorer and IDLC attended the workshop.

Executive Director of BASC Engr Lutful Kabir, presided over the certificate-awarding cere-

Kushtia cottage industries face extinction

KUSHTIA, May 25: Cottage industries in the district, based on cane and bamboo, are on the verge of extinction for want of proper marketing facilities, and lack of capital and patronisation, reports UNB.

Hundreds of skilled people engaged in manufacturing vari- Vladi ous kinds of cane and bamboomade furniture are facing economic hardship due to negligence in providing adequate fa-

cilities. Many artisan families engaged in making cane products are being forced to give up their ancestral profession and take up alternative jobs for earning their livelihood.

The industry is facing competition from machine-made goods. In the past bamboo and cane-made articles like chair, table, bowl, pots, mora etc. had a good demand. But extensive use of furniture and other articles made from steel, aluminum, iron wood and plastic has eroded the demand for bamboo and cane-made arti-

Cultivation of cane plants has decreased in the district due to less demand of finished products in the local market.

Dearth of capital has also aggravated the situation. Subash Chandra, an artisan of Khoksa, informed that they could not repay the loan they took from the money lenders at an exorbitant rate of interest.

Equator

Wheat(P) Gang Lady Hind 5/5 Angelic C Clink Kant 22/5 Cover Trust Rice(P)/Gi Yang SMSL 13/5 29/5 22/5 ASEAN Liderty GI (Log) Yang 24/5 Paulina Sugar(G) Sing 16/5 Fortune Min Jiang GI Sing 22/5 Bdship Axion Andriane Wheat(P) Turk Total 15/4 Sing Green Island GI(Y.Pe) Royal 7/5 Pan Jin Hai NWSL 22/5 C Clink Sing Cont 24/5 Sing Cont BSC 23/5 Cont Sing Nol 20/5

7/6 J/12 Kota Berjaya J/13 Banglar Robi 27/5 CCT/1 Jurong Balsam 26/5 CCT/2 Arabella Cont P.Kel **QCSL** 21/5 CCT/3 QC PINTAIL Cont 23/5 RM/14 OCEAN PRIDE Uzan PSAL Cement 12/5 RM/15 Norbulk Namir Sing PSAL Cement 9/5 Ocean Prayer C.Clink Pada 12/5 GSJ Cement Lima-1 Zaka SBS 4/5 TSP Elizabeth R Phos Hamre Seacom 22/4 DOJ Banglar Jyoti COI Banglar Moni Repair BSC R/A DDJ/1 Banglar Shikha Repair Sing BSC 17/4 DDJ/2 Dea Champion Arafeen R/A RM/8 Chavhavadze CDSO Sealift R/A RM/9 Banglar Urmi Repair R/A 27/5 Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels Date of L Port Local Cargo Loading arrival Call Ban Ann 25/5 KRAB BSL C Clink (Ruby) -Deios-I 25/5 PSAL Cement Monte Chair 25/5 OTBL Sing In Baijast AA Venture 25/5 Yang CLA G 25/5 Tanko Fuj Arl Scraping Sin Hai (Cont) 7/5 25/5 Sing RSL Cont 25/5 RSL Sing Cont Banga Birol (Cont)14/5 26/5 Cont Jaami 16/5 Sing Cross Cont Sing Kota Cahaya (Cont) 16/5 25/5 Cont Sing Pil (BD) Sing Boxer Capt. Cook (Cont) 22/5 Sing Cont Sing Tiger river(Cot)26/4 OSG Argosv Cont Western Taam Torm Pacific 26/5 Urea In Bulk Mary Nour 28/5 Lank BSL Cement(scan) Jahre Spirit 26/5 Visa OTL Xpress makalu (Cont) 14/5 Sing RSL Cont Banga Bijoy 18/5 Bdship Selendang Kasa UST Wheat(G) Luna Azul (48) 21/5 Everett GI (St. Coil) Arktis Crystal Bitu Litmond Gl(copra) Qc Teal (Cont) 21/5 QCSL Cont Sing Fortuna Australia Aust SSST Wheat(G) Pusan Sinoben Coral Hero (48) 22/5 - Everett I (ST. Coll) Asia Harmony (48) 22/5 31/5 Everett GI (ST .Coil) Kota Singa Sing Pil(BD) Cont 31/5 Sing Chu Hong 31/5 **QCSL** Sing Rainbow Light - ASA G Xpres Resove 21/5 31/5 Sing RSL Cont Sing Achiever 21/5 RSL Sing. Sing Cont Yong Jiang Bdship G Jaya Mars(Cont)23/5 1/6 Everbest Cont Col Kota Naga (Cont)23/5 3/6 Sing Pil(BD) Cont Sing 3/6 P.Kel Bdship Cont Banga Biraj Sing

Marine Tolling Chicago Committee Com				
Rosa-T Stevanger Pride Halla Alam Kang Bong	25/5 25/5 28/5 27/5	Sign Aljuba	Sealift Atlantic ECSL	CDSO HSD/MS HSD CPO
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port	Local agent	Date o arriva
	Vesse	ls at Kutul	bdia	
Energy Explorer-IV			BBAL	5/4
Ismaya			BBAL	17/8
Barge CSK-6			BBAL	R/A (28/11
Tug Magarita			BBAL	R/A (28/11
Dea Conquerror	P Mat		Arafeen	R/A (22/5
Juli Tide			IBS	20/5
Seabulk Command			IBS	R/A 129/4
Romina-G	C.Oil	Rast	ASTA	17/5
Banglar Shourabh	COil		BSC	R/A (24/5)

Tanker due:

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

Scarp

UAE

OTBL

DFP-12475-21/5 G-982

Dhaka