

# Investors flee Asian chipmaker shares

## US-based Nat'l Semiconductor Corp plunges 34pc in value

SINGAPORE, Oct 25: Investors fled Asian computer chipmakers today, scared by a sell off in the United States following a company's warning of slowing sales, reports Reuters.

In favour on Tuesday, the chipmakers were sold aggressively on Asian markets after US-based National Semiconductor Corp plunged more than 34 per cent in value.

The shares were hit after it forecast second and third quarter sales might fall below first quarter sales because of weak demand from makers of mobile telephones and computers.

Other big name chipmakers fell and the Philadelphia Semiconductor Index dropped 7.83 per cent, more than offsetting Monday's 3.24 per cent gain.

The Dow Jones Industrial average squeezed out a 1.18 per cent gain to 10,393.07, but Nasdaq followed the chipmakers lead to close down 1.41 per cent at 3,419.79.

The selling rolled into Asia. Samsung Electronics was down 3.6 per cent at 161,000 won per share, while Hyundai Electronics was off 4.2 per cent at 8,490. The companies are two of the world's biggest makers of computer chips.

The losses in the two companies undermined sentiment and left the Korea Composite Stock Price Index down 0.52 per cent at 542.23.

In Japan Advantest Corp, which makes semiconductor testing equipment skidded 6.73 per cent to 14,410 yen in afternoon trade.

Some non-semiconductor stocks, like consumer electronics makers Matsushita Electric Industrial Co Ltd and Sony Corp gained, but institutional investors were wary of buying aggressively ahead of half-year earnings due this week.

Matsushita was up 1.66 per cent at 3,060 and Sony was up 2.12 per cent at 10,600.

But overall sentiment remained cautious in Tokyo, leaving the Nikkei 225 off 1.01 per cent at 14,994.95.

Taiwan semiconductor makers

backed the trend, which brokers said could be the work of state funds supporting the market. The benchmark TAIEX ended up 1.78 per cent at 6023.78.

Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Co, the world's largest made-to-order foundry, was last traded at T\$107.50 up 1.5 per cent from Tuesday's close after rising 30 per cent in the past four sessions.

United Microelectronics Corp rose four per cent to T\$65.00 from T\$62.50 after a 28 per cent rise in four days.

China's hard currency B shares soared following media reports China would allow foreign brokers to directly trade the shares through special seats on the Shanghai and Shenzhen stocks exchanges.

The Shanghai B Share index was up 9.41 per cent at 67,519, while the Shenzhen B Share index was up 7.76 per cent at 116.11.

Hong Kong's Hang Seng was up 0.85 per cent at 15,053.07, mostly supported by firmer telecom shares. Pacific Century Cyberworks, sold heavily on Tuesday after it announced fund raising plans, was up 2.61 per cent at HK\$5.90.

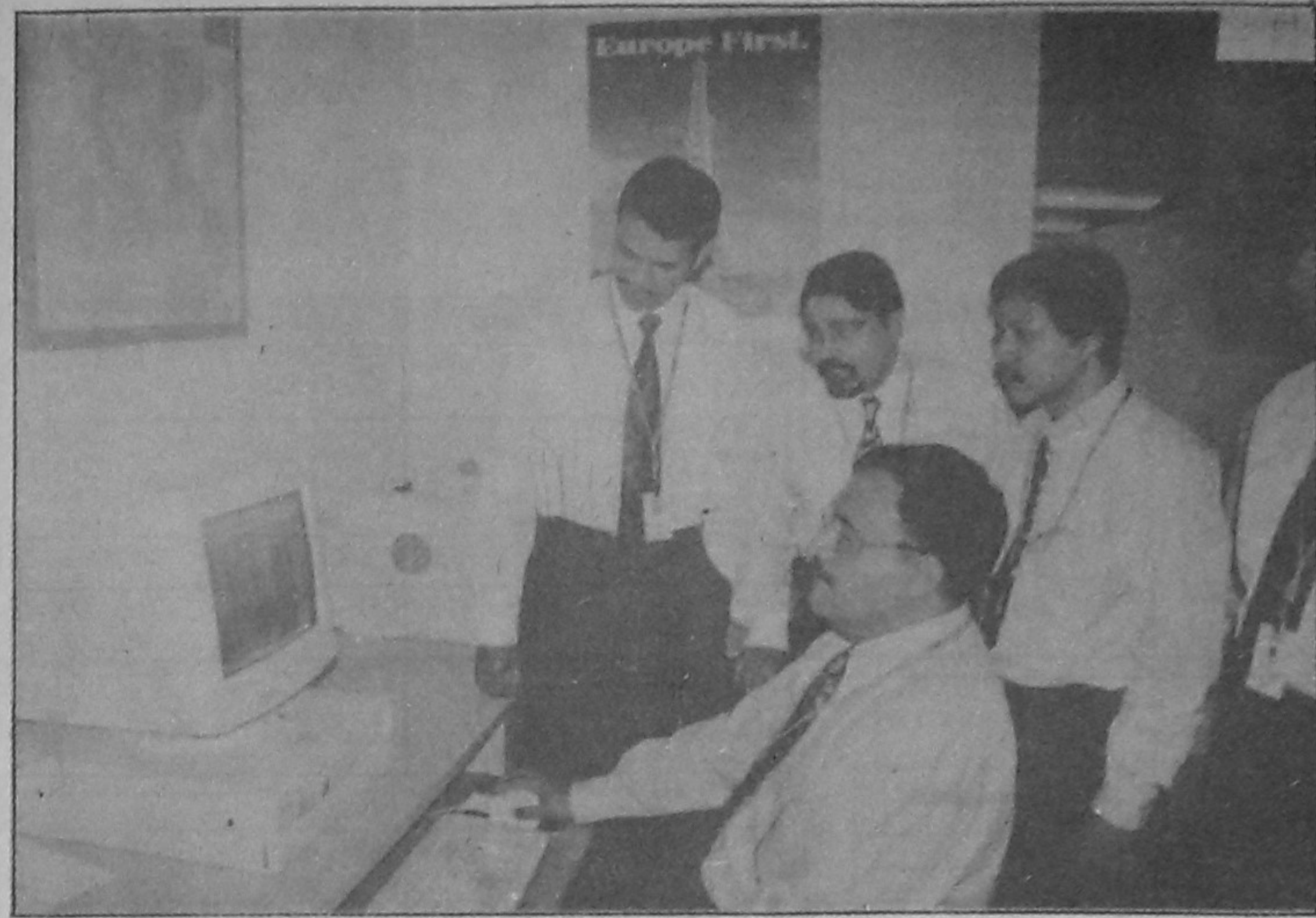
Singapore's Straits Times Index was flat at 1,916.54, although semiconductor shares were hit.

Chartered Semiconductor Manufacturing fell 1.3 per cent to S\$7.35 and electronics services provider Venture Manufacturing dropped 1.86 per cent to S\$15.80.

In currency markets, the euro remained weak but supported by traders' fear of central bank intervention. It was last indicated at \$0.8374, above last week's record low of \$0.8324.

Oil rose modestly following bullish stock data from the US, which showed decline heating oil stocks ahead of the peak demand winter period, oil traders said.

December NYMEX crude futures were last done at \$33.56 per barrel, up 19 cents on the day.



Desmond Quiah, Country Manager of DHL-Bangladesh, inaugurates the internally developed web-based software for import processing. The software will automate the paperwork for DHL inbound taxable shipments and speed up the customs clearing process.

# Amazon.com set to enter Japan

## by year-end

TOKYO, Oct 25: Amazon.com Inc, the world's biggest online retailer, is preparing to enter the Japanese market by the end of this year, a spokesman for a distributor said on Wednesday, reports AP.

The Seattle-based company, which already has overseas ventures in the United Kingdom, Germany and France, is targeting Japan with a Japanese-language Internet site that will sell Japanese books and other items.

Amazon's Japanese venture originally planned to go online by the spring of 2001, but recently informed its local partners that it plans to be ready for business some time by the end of this year, said Takao Magumo, a spokesman for the Osaka-based book wholesaler Osakaya.

Privately held Osakaya signed a contract to distribute Japanese books for Amazon in early September, Magumo said.

Amazon.com's spokeswoman in Tokyo didn't return calls Wednesday requesting comment.

**Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation**  
Krishi Bhaban  
49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000  
(Purchase Division)

### Local Tender Notice

- Tender No & date : 1- Farm (P) 166/2000-2001 date- 15.10.2000
- Description of stores : Soil Testing Kit-60 (sixty) Nos.
- Sale value of tender : Tk 500/- (five hundred) only (not refundable).
- Closing time & date : 15-11-2000 at 12:00 Noon.
- Opening time & date : 15-11-2000 at 12:05 PM.
- Validity of offer : 60(sixty) days from the date of opening of tender.
- Place of submission : Office of the General Manager (Purchase) BADC, "Krishi Bhaban" (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), 49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000.
- Name of scheme : Seed Production Farm.
- Name of consignee : Manager (Farm), BADC, Dhaka.
- Place of delivery : Assit Director (Farms), Mirpur, Seed Multiplication Farm, Beej Bhaban, Gabtali, Mirpur, Dhaka.
- Delivery schedule : 45 (forty-five) days from the date of issuance of purchase order.
- Source of fund : Local fund.

NB: Tender documents can be purchased on cash payment from the Cash Section of Accounts Division (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 on all working days during office hours.

2) Tender documents will not be sold on the date of opening of tender.

3) No tender documents or part thereof will be acceptable offer of opening of tender.

ADC-1400 Md Faridul Alam  
DFP-25294-18/10 Manager (Purchase)  
G-1875 BADC, Dhaka

**Bangladesh Agricultural Development Corporation**  
Krishi Bhaban  
49-51, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000  
(Purchase Division)

### Local Tender Notice

- Tender No & date : 1-Irr. (P)FGR/Small Irr./41/2000-2001 Date: 16.10.2000
- Description of stores : a. Jeep... 3 Nos } For FGR Project  
b. Pick-Up 2 Nos } For Small Irrigation Project
- Sale value of tender : Tk 3,000/= (Taka three thousand) only. Not refundable.
- Closing time & date of tender : 14-11-2000 at 12:00 Noon.
- Opening time & date of tender : 14-11-2000 at 12:05 PM.
- Validity of offer : 60 (sixty) days from the date of opening of tender.
- Place of submission : Office of the General Manager (Purchase), BADC, Krishi Bhaban (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), 49-51, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- Name of scheme : FGR Project & Irrigation Project.
- Name of consignee : a. Project Director, FGR, BADC, Faridpur.  
b. Project Director, Small Irrigation Project, BADC, Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Dhaka.
- Place of delivery : a. Project Director, FGR, BADC, Faridpur.  
b. Project Director, Small Irrigation, BADC, Dhaka.
- Delivery schedule : 60 (sixty) days from the date of issuance of purchase order.
- Source of fund : Local fund.

NB: 1. Tender documents can be purchased on cash payment from the Cash Section, of Accounts Division (3<sup>rd</sup> floor), BADC, Krishi Bhaban, 49-51, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka-1000 on all working days during office hours.  
2. Tender documents will not be sold on the date of opening of tender.  
3. No tender documents or part thereof will be accepted after opening of tender.

ADC-1402 Md Faridul Alam  
DFP-25445-19/10 Manager (Purchase)  
G-1874 BADC, Dhaka

# Oil above \$33 per barrel as US data raise supply fears

SINGAPORE, Oct 25: Oil prices were higher and firmly entrenched above \$33 and a barrel today as key US oil data increased the fear of a supply crunch in winter heating oil supplies, reports Reuters.

Prices were also buoyed by Middle East tensions given a truce agreed in Egypt last week has so far done little to quell the violence between Israelis and the Palestinians.

US benchmark light sweet crude futures for December were up 15 cents at \$33.52 a barrel at 0530 GMT, after closing 39 cents lower at \$33.37 in New York.

The weekly American Petroleum Institute (API) report, released late on Tuesday, showed nationwide heating oil inventories fell to stand more than 30 per cent below year-ago levels ahead of the peak demand winter months.

The report said stocks of distillates, which include heating oil, fell 552,000 barrels in the week ended October 20.

API said crude stocks rose 1.7 million barrels, below market expectations that had called for a 2.5 million barrel increase.

The bullish part of this report is we're still not building heating oil inventories and this is the season when we should be building. Tom Bentz, analyst and trader at Paribas Futures Inc of New York, said.

The US Department of Energy (DOE) is due to release a similar stock report later on Wednesday.

Oil prices are already supported by Middle East Tensions, which show no signs of dissipating.

Even an impending rise in oil output from the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) failed to deflate prices.

OPEC President Ali Rodriguez said on Tuesday the cartel was poised to raise output by 500,000 barrels per day within days if OPEC's basket of crudes remained above \$28 a barrel but said it would consider a rise in supply beyond this "very carefully."

Amid all the hullabaloo in oil markets, the three largest US oil companies turned in record third-quarter earnings on Tuesday.

While US consumers were grappling with high fuel costs and faced the prospect of a shortage in winter heating oil, Exxon Mobil Corp XOM.N, Chevron Corp CHV.N and Texaco Inc TX.N all posted profits that beat expectations.

**SONY RANGS**  
GRAND OPENING  
ECONOMY SHOP

Akhtar Hussain, Managing Director of Rangs Electronics Ltd, opens the company's first Sony Rangs Economy Shop at Topkhana Road Tuesday.

— Rangs Electronics photo

**DESA Local Tender Notice**

নিয়মিত বিদ্যুৎ বিল পরিশোধ করুন  
সকাল বেলায় বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহার হ্রাস করুন

Memo No. PS-2/Pro-2/01 Dated: 12-10-2000

Dhaka Electric Supply Authority invites bids for different electrical materials against the following tender for the Emergency Maintenance & Rehabilitation Project Phase-3 for Sub-Transmission & Distribution System. Reputed manufacturers/their representatives are eligible to participate in this tender.

Sl No	Tender Enquiry number	Materials	Last date for buying tender document	Tender submission/ opening date	Cost of tender document
1.	01/ER-3/Meter	400V 3-Phase Double Tariff Programmable Consumer Metering Unit	13-11-2000	15-11-2000	Tk 5000/-

Tender documents will be available for inspection and purchase (through application) during normal office hours in any of the following offices:

- Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka-Division, 1st 12-storied Govt Building, Segunbagicha, Dhaka.
- General Manager, Consumer's Services (North), Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, House No 73, Road No 5/A, Dhanmondi, Dhaka.
- General Manager, Consumer's Services (South), Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, 12/1/A, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.
- Project Director, Greater Dhaka Power Distribution Project, House No 47, Road No 135, Gulshan, Dhaka.
- Director, Procurement & Store Management Dte, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, 1, Abdul Ghani Road, Dhaka-1000.
- Secretary, Dhaka Electric Supply Authority, 1, Abdul Gani Road, Dhaka.

The cost of tender documents (non-refundable) shall be paid through Pay Order/Demand Draft issued by any scheduled local bank favouring Director, Finance & Accounts, DESA. Tender document shall be obtained personally and DESA will not take any responsibility for sending tender documents to any body.

Tenders shall be received in the above mentioned offices on the specified date upto 11:30 hrs (BST) and tenders received will be opened publicly on the same day at 2:30 hrs (BST) in the office of the undersigned in presence of the bidders/their representatives if any. Late tenders, if any, shall summarily be rejected.

DESA reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids at any stage without assigning any reason therefor.

DFP-25215-18/10  
G-1873  
Director  
Procurement & Stores, DESA.

# US, Jordan strike free trade deal

WASHINGTON, Oct 25: The United States and Jordan have signed a precedent-setting free trade deal that for the first time would protect labour rights and environmental standards, reports AP.

The deal, which would remove all trade barriers between the two nations over the next 10 years, is only the fourth such pact the United States has with other countries. The others are with Canada, Mexico and Israel.

Negotiators, working around the clock, completed final review of the document only hours before a White House signing ceremony Tuesday attended by President Bill Clinton and Jordan's King Abdullah.

Clinton called the deal "a landmark achievement" because of its inclusion of labour and environmental safeguards.

"This trade agreement is one that all Americans can be proud of," he said. "For Jordan, it represents a farsighted commitment to worker and environmental protection."

Abdullah said the effort to remove all trade barriers between the two nations would bolster his nation economically as it pursues "our cherished goal of peace in our region."

Congress must approve the agreement before it takes effect, but its fate is uncertain given Republican opposition to linking trade with labour and the environment. The Clinton administration said the pact will not be sent to Congress for approval until next year.

# Sony Rangs Economy Shop opens in city

Rangs Electronics Limited opened its first Economy Shop at Topkhana Road (Crescent Centre) in the city on Tuesday last under its expansion and better Customer Service Program, says a press release.

The shop was inaugurated by Akhtar Hussain, Managing Director of Rangs Electronics Limited, while Sabur Ahmed, General Manager, and other senior officers of Rangs Electronics Limited were present.

In his inaugural speech, the managing director mentioned that it was the first Sony Rangs Economy Shop in Bangladesh to offer the valued customers an opportunity to purchase the world famous Sony, Rangs and AIWA brand electronic products at a considerably lower price.

He also mentioned that the after-sales service for these products will be the same as is being provided by all Sony Rangs sales and service centres.

Apart from Rangs Electronics' own sales and service centres all over the country, it has a network of more than 150 authorised dealers.

# UN financial crisis getting worse

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 25: The United Nations said yesterday it faced a increasingly serious financial crisis that had again forced it to borrow from peacekeeping funds to cover its regular budget deficit, reports AP.

"As of today, the United Nations is owed about 2.7 billion dollars, including 1.6 billion from the United States," spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

Of that, the United States owed more than 1.2 billion dollars to the peacekeeping budget, he said.

Outstanding contributions to peacekeeping total about 2.2 billion dollars, approximately what the UN expects peacekeeping operations to cost this year.

Early this month, member states embarked upon a major reassessment of the scale of contributions.

The United States, the single biggest contributor to the regular budget, said its share should be reduced from 25 per cent, the level fixed in 1973.

This year's regular budget is 1.08 billion dollars.

# Exchange Rates

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

Central bank buying and selling rate of USD: BDT 53.85/BDT 54.15

TT/OD	BC	Currency	Buying		
			TT Clean	OD Sight Doc	OD Transfer
54.2500	54.2800	USD	53.8150	53.6464	53.5779
45.9716	46.0585	EUR	44.2048	44.0214	43.9448
79.3482	79.3902	GBP	77.5604	77.2939	77.2393
29.7071	29.7316	AUD	28.7104	26.6180	26.5378
0.5095	0.5096	JPY	0.4914	0.4912	0.4902
30.4007	30.4252	CHF	29.7669	29.6724	29.5879
5.3876	5.3928	SEK	5.2984	5.2808	5.2648
36.0668	36.0313	CAD	35.1553	35.0617	34.9785
6.9914	6.9927	HKD	6.8679	6.8502	6.8328
31.4348	31.4552	SGD	30.2969	30.2531	30.1385
14.8919	14.9095	AED	14.5023	14.5242	14.4838
14.5784	14.5968	SAR	14.2414	14.2047	14.1665

Usage export bills

TT/DOC	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7041	53.3727	52.9204	52.4217	51.8688	50.6303

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollar

	Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Indo Rupiah	Thai Baht
Buy	46.35	56.80	79.35	8920	43.70
Sell	46.40	57.00	79.40	8955	43.74

The local foreign exchange market was inquisid. Demand for dollar was dull and trading of dollar /taka was rangebound. In the money market, demand for call money was steady and call rate fluctuated in a narrow range and traded between 6.0 to 6.50 per cent.

Dollar rose to a 11-year high against Swiss franc, but was stuck around half a cent below record high against euro, warning of the central bank intervention gave the single currency some support. Speculation that euro supportive comments from the Group of 20 nations meeting in Canada prevented dollar from making much headway against euro. Some also cited talk that investors were taking profits on Swiss franc positions accumulated amid ongoing Middle East tensions. US Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers stuck close to administration's long-standing preference for a strong dollar, giving little help to euro bulls. Meanwhile, further signs of inflation in the euro zone emerged from data showing German import price inflation accelerated to 13.4 per cent year on year in September its highest rate in 19 years.

Elsewhere, the future of yen was also haunted by failure of the Japanese life insurance companies.

# Shipping Intelligence

**Chittagong port**  
Berth position and performance of vessels as on 25.10.2000.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L.Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Date of leaving
J/1	Thor Eagle	Proimat	-	Tsl	21/10	-
J/2	Hanjin Houston	GI/WT(P)	Sing	Mutual	11/10	2/11
J/3	Hyderabad	Rice(P)	Para	Bsc	30/09	29/10
J/4	Pathen	Rice(P)	Yang	Mta	14/10	29/10
J/5	Hans	Salt(TCB)	P.Kei	Sbs	26/09	27/10
J/6	Century	GI(WL,CE)	Bank	Rainbow	20/10	27/10
J/7	Banglar Kallol	GI	Momb	Bsc	17/10	28/10
J/8	Pride	Salt(TCB)	Kand	Uml	22/9	4/11
J/9	Yasmina	GI	Okha	Smsl	18/10	27/10
J/10	Marine Express	WT(P)MS.Ype	Sing	Rainbow	15/10	27/10
J/12	Bosung/Capt Cook	Cont	P.Kei	Bdship	22/10	27/10
J/13	Tiger River	Cont	Sing	Nol	25/10	27/10
CCT/1	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil(BD)	24/10	27/10
CCT/2	QC Pintail	Cont	Sing	Qcsl	23/10	26/10
CCT/3	Banga Biroi	Cont	PiKei	Bdship	23/10	27/10
RM/14	Eltanin	C.Clink	Sing	Psal	3/10	30/10
CCJ	Ocean Pride	C.Clink(Ruby)	Krab	Psal	24/10	29/10
RM/3	Warrior	Colso	Sing	Rainbow	21/10	26/10
DDJ/1	Banglar Gourab	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	28/10
DDJ/2	Seabulk Command	-	-	K.Dia	IBS	R/A
RM/8 (Cutl)	Banglar Urm	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	30/10
	Mary Nour	Cement(Scan)	Lang	Bsl	21/10	2/11

**Vessels due at outer anchorage**

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L.Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Kota Nagai(Cont)16/10	25/10	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Anlong Jiang	25/10	-	Bdship	GI	-
Xuan Cheng	26/10	-	Bdship	GI	-
Jurong Balsam (Cont)16/10	27/01	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing
Arabella(Cont)16/10	26/10	-	Qcsl	Cont	Sing
Triumph Hongkong (72)19/10	26/10	Sing	Rml	GI(S,Coli)	-
Tug Salvigour	26/10	Maur	Azh	-	-
Tiba	26/10	Maur	Ah	Scraping	-
Jaya Marsi(Cont)18/10	26/10	Cbo	Everbest	Cont	Col
Yong Jiang	27/10	-	Bdship	GI	-
Eios	26/10	Basu	Smsl	Ureal(Bagi)	-
Orient Independence (Cont)16/10	28/10	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Bijo(Cont)16/10	27/10	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Golden-D	27/10	Pipa	Nwsl	C.Clink(Aramit)	-
Martina Prima	27/10	Sing	Otbl	-	-
Xpress Padma (Cont)16/10	28/10	Sing	Rsl	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shikha (Cont)18/10	28/10	-	Bsc	Cont	Sing
Xpress Mahala (Cont)7/10	28/10	-	Everbest	Cont	Col
Kota Brjari(Cont)18/10	29/10	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Ava	28/10	Vang	Mta	Rice(P)+GI(Y,MA)	-

**Tanker due**

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Belgrace	26/10	Sing	Mstpl	Hsd/MS

**Vessels at Kutubdia**

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Energy Explorer-IV	-	-	Bbal	5/4
Ismaiya	-	-	Bbal	17/8
Dea Champton	-	Sing	Arafeen	R/A(24/9)
Dea Conqueror	-	-	Arafeen	R/A(18/10)
De Xiang	P Mat	Sing	Arafeen	R/A(18/10)
Smit Javed-110	P Mat	-	Arafeen	R/A(21/10)
Seabulk Danah	-	-	Ibs	R/A(21/10)

**Vessels at outer anchorage**

**Vessels not ready**

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Mergui	Rice(P)	Yang	Mta	23/10
Sungrisan-9	Gisp(P)	Sing	Delmure	24/10
Harold River	Wheat(P)	Aust	Mutual	24/10
Mahlite Oldendorff	GI(Y,Pe)	Bank	Scangly	24/10
Satecon	Sko-JP-1	Sing	Mstpl	24/10
Chong Chong Cang	Sugar(G)	Tuti	Cncl	25/10

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