

# Annan wants Iraqi oil, food programme streamlined

## OPEC mulls steps over Iraqi move: Kuwait

UNITED NATIONS, Dec 2: Declaring ordinary Iraqis lived under "deep-seated" poverty, Secretary-General Kofi Annan called for a review of the UN humanitarian programme for Baghdad, burdened with bureaucratic and political delays, says Reuters.

Annan, in a report to the Security Council on Friday, said a review was needed because Iraqi oil sales were generating more money than ever before but people lived in misery, many bartering food rations for other essential needs.

"The absence of normal economic activity has given rise to the spread of deep-seated poverty," Annan said in reference to decade-old UN sanctions against Iraq.

"The time has come to review the validity of applying procedures and practices originally designed to cover food and medicine to a vastly more complex array of infrastructure and equipment," he said.

The oil-for-food programme allows Iraq to sell crude on the open market and, under strict UN control, buy food, medicine and many other supplies to alleviate the impact of sanctions, imposed when Baghdad invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Annan criticised the United States, without mentioning it by name, for blocking too many goods Iraq has ordered, and Iraq for leaving too much

money in its UN-controlled escrow account rather than buying medicine for its people.

He said that the number of "holds" on equipment ordered by Iraq had risen drastically to \$2.31 billion by the end of October, thereby impeding electricity, water, transportation, sanitation, telecommunications and oil spare parts.

The report, however, did not comment on Iraq stopping its oil exports on Friday after Baghdad insisted that buyers of its crude pay a surcharge outside the terms of the United Nations and they refused.

Baghdad currently does not need more of its oil revenues to fund the humanitarian programme because it has some \$11 billion in a UN escrow account through oil sales.

Annan criticised Iraq for ordering only \$2 billion worth of supplies or 28 per cent of the \$7.8 billion earmarked funds for central and southern Iraq during the past six months.

"For example, not a single application for either health or education sectors had been submitted under the present phase," he said in the report.

Iraq has been barred from controlling its oil revenues since sanctions were imposed. The oil-for-food programme, which began in December 1996, allows Iraq to sell unlimited amounts of oil provided the proceeds are put in a UN es-

# S'pore for expanded trade with India

BOMBAY, Dec 2: Singapore Minister for Trade and Industry George Yeo called Friday for a greater push to develop business ties with India, reports AFP.

"The trade figures between our two countries should grow by double digits every year."

"There is no reason why they should not," Yeo told Indian business leaders here.

Yeo was in Bombay on the last leg of a six-day visit to India at the head of a business delegation.

The Singapore minister urged India to adopt total transparency while inviting companies to pick up stakes in state-owned domestic and international carriers, Indian Airlines and Air India.

"The need for transparency is necessary so that India will be able to defend the bidding process anywhere in the world and this is essential to establish credibility," Yeo said.

"The investment should be above board," he said.

India plans to sell off 60 per cent equity in Air India and 49 per cent in Indian Airlines as part of its privatisation plans.

India's Tata group and Singapore Airlines (SIA) have forged a collaboration to pick up Air India shares and become a strategic partner of the international airline.

Yeo said SIA's participation would "add value" to such a joint venture.

The minister also called on India to speed up its economic reforms programme, launched in 1991.

"One of the crucial areas in which we would like to see more change are the labour laws. We find Indian labour laws are too rigid. In fact they hurt the workers themselves. But we recognise that this part of the political compulsions here."

Yeo also urged India to open its economy wider to foreign direct investors and warned that the manufacturing sector should not be ignored amid the current obsession with information technology.



Anti-globalisation demonstrators read pamphlets during a protest yesterday against the upcoming EU summit in Nice beginning December 7. The demonstrators claimed their aim for "another democratic and social Europe." - AFP photo

# China has no plan to slash cell phone tariffs by 2001

BEIJING, Dec 2: China said it had no plans of slashing mobile phone charges before the end of 2001, throwing cold water on expectations that it was going to cut telecom fees in preparation for its entry into the World Trade Organisation, reports AFP.

Wu Jichuan, the powerful minister of information industry, said he did not intend to submit a plan to the government for any adjustments in mobile phone call charges either this year or next, the Xinhua news agency said.

"Any readjustment in telecommunications charges concerns the interests of the general public and various parties -- public hearings should be held," he said according to Xinhua.

"Meanwhile, it is technologically a very complicated job to revise charge counting systems, which requires sufficient time to get prepared."

The news caused shares in China Mobile (Hong Kong) Ltd. and China Unicom, the mainland's second largest mobile operator, to jump on the Stock Exchange of Hong Kong.

China Mobile closed up 3.00 Hong Kong dollars to 45.60 while China Unicom gained 1.70 dollars to 12.80.

Both companies had slumped over the last week after reports Chinese telecom regulators were considering moving to a system where only callers paid for mobile phone calls. Currently both callers and recipients of calls pay.

A week after news of the proposed new billing system broke, China Mobile had lost almost 20 per cent of its market capitalisation and China Unicom had fallen 28.4 per cent.

With 65 million mobile phone subscribers and extensive telecom networks, China is well equipped to embrace the digital economy, but officials and observers have complained that high service charges keep it from exploiting these advantages fully.

In mid-November, state media reported that the government planned to "dramatically" cut its telecommunications service charges to stimulate growth in the industry and prepare for competition after joining the WTO.

## New adviser of Dhaka Bank



Dr. A. T. M. Shaunsul Huda, former Managing Director of Bangladesh Krishi Bank, and Secretary has joined the Dhaka Bank Limited as its adviser, says a press conference.

Starting his public career as a teacher at the Dhaka University, he joined the erstwhile Civil Service of Pakistan (CSP) in 1966. In the course of his 34-year public service, Dr. Huda held top-level positions in the finance, agriculture and water resources sectors. He recently retired from the position of secretary, Ministry of Water Resources, and in that capacity was instrumental in developing the National Water Policy and carrying out wide-ranging institutional reforms of the Bangladesh Water Development Board.

# Metal: Weekly Roundup

## Gold up on weak dollar, stock jitters; base metals surge

LONDON Dec 2: Gold prices picked up this week as the weaker dollar and stock market jitters made the precious metal a more attractive bet, says AFP.

An ounce of gold was going for 269.50 dollars from 266 dollars last week on the London Bullion Market.

As the dollar slid to a seven-week low against the euro and world stock markets were hit by tremors radiating from New York, gold regained something of its time-honoured status as a store of value in troubled economic times.

"There was a flight to quality and the large short position in gold compounded the upside momentum," said the GNI brokerage in a research note.

**Silver:** Dull. The silver market remained extremely quiet, with prices rangebound near three-year low points amid thin trading.

An ounce of silver was selling for 4.63 dollars from 4.62 dollars a week earlier.

**Platinum and Palladium:** Shining. The prices of the sister metals continued to surge this week amid traditional year-end uncertainty over the Russian supply situation.

An ounce of platinum was going for 605 dollars from 588 dollars a week earlier on the London Platinum and Palladium Market (LPPM).

Palladium meanwhile was quoted at 811 dollars an ounce from 782 dollars last week.

"We are coming to the time when the Russians talk to major customers so there is nervousness around the end of the year," said Mitsui Bussan Commodities precious metals specialist Andy Smith. "There is borrowing and buying of platinum and palladium."

"Will the Russians renew their contracts in the new year?"

**Base Metals:** Firmer. Base metals picked up slightly this week, though the momentum flagged as fears grew about an economic slowdown in the US

powerhouse economy. Copper found some support amid fears of strikes in both Chile and Turkey, while aluminum prices also gained at the start of the week. But weak confidence from the Chicago Purchasing Managers Index sapped strength from metal prices.

"The Chicago PMI came in at a very low level, which reflects poorly on the heartland of the auto industry," said the GNI brokerage.

On the London Metal Exchange (LME) three-month copper prices were still ahead over the week, at 1,842 dollars a tonne from 1,791 dollars.

Nickel prices ticked up to 7,130 dollars from 6,900 dollars last week, while three-month aluminum prices pushed on to 1,515 dollars from 1,499 dollars.

Zinc prices meanwhile inched ahead to 1,065 dollars from 1,060 dollars. Lead prices added 12 dollars a tonne to 483 dollars, while tin gained 50 dollars a tonne to 5,335 dollars.

## Tender Notice

**Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Services Division  
Sharulia, Demra, Dhaka-1204

Reference: EMES/Telc/ Date: 20-11-2000

1. Description of work: Supply of requisite paints and painting of total of 10 telecom towers installed at the offices of the company at Demra, Ghorasal, Joydevpur, Monohordi, Sherpur, Kishoreganj, Ashuganj, B'baria, Shahjibazar and Tangail.

2. Time limit for completion of work: 60 (sixty) days.

3. Estimated expenditure: Tk 5,41,800/=

4. Cost of tender document: Tk 1000.00 (Taka one thousand) only non-refundable.

5. Earnest money: 2.5% of the quoted rate of the tenderer will have to be given in the form of Bank Draft or Pay Order from any scheduled commercial bank in favour of Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd with the tender.

6. Date and time of distribution of tender documents: 12-12-2000 to 20-12-2000 everyday from 9:00 hours in the morning to 13:00 hours at noon (on all working days).

7. Places of distribution and receiving tender documents:

- a) EMES Division, Sharulia, Demra, Dhaka.
- b) Sales Division (Metro Dhaka-1), Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd., 7, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- c) Revenue Division (Metro Dhaka-1), Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, Golapbagh, Dhaka-1200.
- d) Sales Division (Metro Dhaka-2), Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, 5, Mohakhali C/A, Dhaka-1212.
- e) Revenue Division (Metro Dhaka-2), Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, 7, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.
- f) Sales Division (Metro Dhaka-3) Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, I.S. Block-A, Lalmaia, Dhaka-1207.
- g) Revenue Division (Metro Dhaka-3), Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, Mirpur, Dhaka.
- h) Stores Division, Sharulia, Demra, Dhaka.

Interested tenderers can procure tender documents free of cost from the offices as mentioned in Section-7. But at the time of submitting tender the cost of the tender document and earnest money in the form of Pay-Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled commercial bank in favour of the Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd separately will have to be given with the tender.

8. Date and time of receiving tender: 21-12-2000 till 11:00 AM.

9. Place, date and time of opening tender: 21-12-2000 at 12-30 hours at noon in the office chamber of the General Manager (Operations).

10. Eligibility of tenderers: Should have an experience certificate in support of work of painting of telecom mast/tower for at least within a period of 5 (five) years in various government/semi-government/ autonomous establishments.

11. This company reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without any responsibility or without assigning any reason.

12. All other information are enclosed with the tender documents. In due to unavoidable circumstances, it is not possible to receive/open tenders on the schedule dates then it will be received/opened on the following working day.

গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

Deputy General Manager  
(Electrical & Mechanical Engineering Services Division)

Titas Public Relations-59/2000-2001  
DFP-28873-2811  
G-2106

**BASIC Bank of Small Industries and Commerce Bangladesh Limited**  
Head Office  
Sena Kalyan Bhaban (6th floor), 195, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

## TENDER NOTICE

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers for supply of (i) BASIC monogram printed computer paper and (ii) computer accessories for one year period starting from 1 January 2001, approximately costing at Tk. 10.00 lac and Tk. 2.00 lac respectively. From the bidders, one supplier for computer paper and one for computer accessories will be selected for the year of 2001.

The tender schedule for each category of items with detailed specifications and terms and conditions may be collected on payment of Tk. 100.00 only (not refundable) upto 17-12-2000 on any working day between 0900 to 1300 hours from the Computer Division, BASIC, Head Office, Dhaka.

Sealed tenders should be dropped in the tender box kept at Head Office by 1300 hours on 18-12-2000 and will be opened at 1315 hours on the same day in the presence of bidders, if any.

The offer will be considered on the basis of composite bid for each category of item mentioned above.

The Bank authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all in part or full offers without assigning any reason.

**Abul Kashem Md. Shirin**  
Asstt. General Manager  
Computer Division

**Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited (Wes Gas)**  
(A Company of Petrobangla)  
Paschimanchal Gas Project  
Nolka, Sirajganj

Memo No 77.02.99(15) Date: 22-11-2000  
গ্যাস জাতীয় সম্পদ। এর অপচয় রোধ করে জাতীয় দায়িত্ব পালন করুন

## Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from bonafide contractors/establishments having licences from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission for performing the radiography of batwelding joint (NTD) 8" diameter pipe line of 140 (PSIG) pressure from Baghabari to Ishwardi and other related work under Paschimanchal Gas Project of Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited:

01. Name of work	Radiography (NDT) of batwelding of 140 (PSIG) pressure joint of 8" diameter gas pipe line and other related work from Baghabari to Ishwardi under Paschimanchal Gas Project.	
02. Estimated cost	Taka 30,84,561.49 (Taka thirty lakh eighty-four thousand five hundred sixty-one and paisa forty-nine) only.	
03. Cost of tender	Taka 1,000.00 (one thousand) (non-refundable) per set.	
04. Earnest money	At the rate of 2.5% of the total quoted cost in the forms of Pay Order/Bank Draft in favour of Paschimanchal Gas Project will have to be deposited.	
05. Eligibility of tenderers to submit tender	Contractors/establishments with licences from Bangladesh Atomic Energy Commission can participate in tender.	
06. Duration for completion of work	180 (one hundred eighty) days.	
07. Place of availability of tender	a) Accounts Division Paschimanchal Gas Company Limited, Nolka, Sirajganj.	b) Accounts Division, Bakhrabad Gas Systems Ltd, Chanapur, Comilla.
	c) Accounts Division, Bangladesh Gas Field Co Ltd, Court Road, B'baria.	d) Accounts Division, GTCL, House-1, Road-12, Sector-3, Uttara, Dhaka.
	e) Accounts Division, Petrobangla, 3, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.	f) Accounts Division, BAPEX, Ibrahim Mansion (3rd Floor), Purana Paltan, Dhaka.
	g) Accounts Division, Jalalabad Gas T&D System Ltd, Mendighaj, Sylhet	h) Accounts Division, Sylhet Gas Field Co Ltd, Chiknagul, Sylhet.
	i) Accounts Division, Titas Gas T&D Co Ltd, 105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Karwan Bazar, Dhaka.	j) Accounts Division, Rupantorito Prakritik Gas Co Ltd, BSEC Building, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka.
08. Place of receiving and opening tender	Offices as mentioned in Serial No 07.	
09. Date and time of selling tender	30.11.2000 to 13.12.2000 during office hours.	
10. Last date and time of receiving tender	14.12.2000 till 11.00 AM.	
11. Date and time of opening tender	Tenders will be opened on 14.12.2000 at 11-15 AM in presence of contractor/representative (if there is any).	

12. Special directives:  
No tender will be sold on the day of receiving and opening tender and if the day is a government holiday, tenders will be opened the following working day. Tenders can not be purchased or supplied by mail.  
The Paschimanchal Gas Authority reserves the power to reject/accept any tender or all tenders without assigning any reason.

WGPR/05/2000-2001  
DFP-28827-2811 G-2107

**Civil Aviation Authority of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Director, CEMSU, Kurmitola  
Dhaka-1229

বিমান বন্দরকে পরিষ্কার রাখুন

## Notice Inviting Tender

Tender No: CEMSU-COMM-16/2000-2001

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from the CEMSU enlisted contractors or bonafide suppliers for the undermentioned work which will be received up to 12:00 hrs on 14-12-2000 in the office of the Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka and will be opened on the same day at 12:15 hrs in presence of the tenderers or their authorised representatives (if any).

Name of Work: Supply of Power Module M-10 for HF TX/RX Racial 4550

Earnest money @2.5% (two & a half per cent) of the quoted amount (refundable) in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order drawn on any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka must be submitted along with the tender.

Tender papers, terms & conditions and schedule of items of work may be had from Cash Section of office of the Director (Finance) and Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka during office hours on payment of Tk 250/- (Taka two hundred & fifty) (non-refundable). The intending tenderers may apply in their letter heads to the Director (Finance), CAAB HQ & Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka for purchase of tender documents. No tender papers will be sold on the date fixed for opening of tender. Other terms and conditions can be seen in the office of the Director, CEMSU, CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

The authority reserves the right to accept any tender or part thereof or reject all the tenders without assigning any reason.

**R K Deb**  
Deputy Director (Supply)  
For Director, CEMSU  
CAAB, Kurmitola, Dhaka.

DFP-28768-2711  
G-2097