

Pakistan may opt for easing IMF monetary targets

Bid to weather rupee liquidity crunch

KARACHI, Jan 8: Pakistan may seek to ease some of the monetary goals set by the International Monetary Fund to overcome a rupee liquidity crunch that has sent its money markets reeling, financial sources said today, reports Reuters.

The year-end also saw extreme volatility in money markets as the central bank battled to bring down its net domestic assets to negative 26.3 billion rupees from an early December level that was double the target.

He said the severe liquidity situation was hurting the real economy, which has seen an embryonic recovery last year. Pakistan's economy grew by 4.8 per cent in the fiscal year that ended in June 2000, against a growth rate of 3.1 per cent in the previous year.

The flow caused a hefty 14 per cent decline in the value of the rupee against the dollar up to October before the central bank stepped in by hiking short-term rates and increasing cash reserve requirements.

Koehler voices support for US rate cuts

LONDON, Jan 8: The International Monetary Fund's managing director Horst Koehler voiced support today for the prospect of tax cuts and further interest rate cuts in the United States, says Reuters.

Writing in the Financial Times, he offered a reassuring view of global economic prospects. Koehler said the "immediate task is to safeguard growth in the world economy," but this should be achievable because the United States had the necessary policy tools at its disposal.

Computer prices cut in Singapore

SINGAPORE, Jan 8: Desktop computer prices in affluent, high-tech Singapore have dropped by as much as 25 per cent in the past few weeks and could slide further soon, retailers and industry watchers said Monday, reports AP.

The drop is due to cheaper component prices and aggressive competition between vendors in Singapore, said Lillian Tay, a senior analyst with technology research firm Gartner Group.

Human smugglers target low-paid drivers to enter S'pore

SINGAPORE, Jan 8: Syndicates behind the multimillion dollar human smuggling route to Singapore were reported today to be targeting low-paid commercial drivers to get around intense border enforcement by immigration officials, says AFP.

Smuggling syndicates are approaching drivers of company-registered vehicles with the lure of easy money to smuggle in illegal immigrants.

One Malaysian driver was last month offered 375 Singapore dollars (215 US), half his normal monthly salary, for half a day's work to ferry five illegal immigrants into Singapore. The five were found hidden in a compartment of his bitumen tanker.

S'pore calls for Asian version of EU

SINGAPORE, Jan 8: Singapore Monday proposed an Asia-wide bloc similar to the European Union, saying the region must work together to thrive in an increasingly technological world, says AP.

Yeo defended Singapore's relentless pursuit of bilateral free trade agreements and said other Asian countries should do the same. He said Asian countries need to work together to create the same vibrant bloc to attract global technology companies and retain one pool of talented IT professionals.

Exchange Rates

Table with columns for Currency, Selling TT & OD, Selling BC, Buying TT Clean, Buying OD Sight Doc, and Buying OD Transfer. Includes sub-tables for Bill buying rates and US dollar London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR).

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Health Directorate, Mohakhali, Dhaka-1212. Memo No: HD/ME/IHT/465. Dated: 31-12-2000.

Notice

Subject: Regarding admission of students in 3 (three) year Diploma-in-Health Technology & Diploma-in-Pharmacy in Institute of Health Technology in Dhaka & Rajshahi during 1999-2000 academic session.

Table with columns for Dentistry, Path-Laboratory, Diploma Pharmacy, Radiography, and Physiotherapy. Lists candidates and their registration numbers.

Table titled 'List of Candidates Selected for Admission to Institutes of Health Technology (Registration Number)' with columns for Institute of Health Technology, Rajshahi, and candidates.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, District, Shariatpur.

Invitation for Bids (IFB)

Memo No LGED/EE/MSP/Shariat/2000/3702. Dated: 31.12.2000. IFB No 26/2000-2001. IDA Credit No 3177-BD.

- 1. The People's Republic of Bangladesh has received a Credit from the International Development Association (IDA) in various currencies towards the cost of Municipal Services Project (MSP) and intends to apply part of the Credit proceeds to cover eligible payment under the contacts for Flood Damage Rehabilitation Component of the Project.

Table with columns: Sl No, Contract package No, Name of work, Bid security (taka), Time for completion of work (days).

- 3. Bidding documents (and additional copies) may be purchased at the office of the Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, District Shariatpur, Tel. 0601-55581, Fax: 0601-55581 and on non-refundable fee of Tk 750.00 (seven hundred fifty), for each set during normal office hours on all working days up to 13.02.2001.



This file photo taken February 9, 1999, shows a huge advertising billboard of the Australian beer Foster's as it looms over a square in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

Shipping Intelligence. Chittagong port. Birth position and performance of vessels as on 08.01.2001. Table with columns: Birth No, Name of vessels, Cargo, L Port, Local agent, Date of Leaving arrival.

Vessels due at outer anchorage. Table with columns: Name of vessels, Date of arrival, L Port, Local agent, Cargo, Loading port.

Tanker due: Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Vessels at Kutubdia. Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Vessels at outer anchorage. Ready on: Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Vessels not ready: Table with columns: Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Vessels Awaiting Instruction. Table with columns: City of Houston, Name of vessels, Cargo, Last Port, Local agent, Date of arrival.

Table titled 'Movement of vessels for 9.1.2001' with columns: Outgoing, Incoming, Shifting, and vessel details.