Buying OD

Export Bill

53.6970

78.0110

25.2145

Buying 00

Transfer

53.6250

77.9064

25.1807

32.5634

0.4536

22.3483

UN asks developing nations to bridge digital divide

Six-day seminar begins in Sri Lanka today

General Kofi Annan has asked based global economy." developing countries to adopt savs AFP

this central Sri Lankan town on pressive results. the "digital divide" has called for investment and regulatory mechanisms to make informa- on the Internet, but it surfs the tion technology accessible to net on behalf of listeners and

"The new communications virtually any subject. technologies are the driving force of globalisation," Annan are used freely by local children said. "They are bringing people who are seeing the technology together and giving decision for the first time. Many do not makers unprecedented new tools for development.

"At the same time, however, web pages. there is a real danger that the

NBL annual

confce held

the Managers and Executives of

National Bank Limited was held

at a local hotel on Saturday.

bank, inaugurated the confer-

Habibullah Chairman of the

In his speech, the chairman

stressed the need for making a

good planning for the business

related to information technol-

ogy like Internet e-commerce

cost deposit and non-funded

business to face the competi-

the bank, said NBL is a leading

private sector commercial bank

having good market reputation.

the bank, called for united

efforts of the Board of Directors.

executives, managers and staff

of the bank for better perform-

spoke of the need for human

resources development through

training of the employees of the

Md Shamsuzzoha, Director

No 7 (SDE-1) of 2000-2001

2000-2001

Tk 1,18,49,020/=.

15 (fifteen) months.

Tk 2,36,900/=.

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in BD Form No 2911 for the

undermentioned work as per terms and conditions stated

Construction of Shilpakala Academy

Tk 775/= (Tk seven hundred and

Office of the undersigned in/c office of

the Executive Engineer, Ctg PWD Divn

PWD Divn, Rangamati/Khagrachhari/

Cox's Bazar/Banderban/Feni/Noakhali/

Lakshmipur/Chandpur/Comilla/B'baria/

Sylhet/Sunamgonj/M'bazar & office of

the Divnl Commissioners of Sylhet

Divn and also one Executive Engineer

authorised by PWD Zone Chittagong/

Office of the undersigned in/c office of

the Executive Engineer, PWD Divn,

Sylhet/Sunamgonj/M'bazar & office of

the Divisional Commissioner of Sylhet

Category applicable as per financial

limit of authorised enlisted cont/firm of

Up to 12:00 Noon of 15-2-2001 and

will be opened on the same day at

If more than one tenders are received

having same rate & stand lowest

selection will be made by lottery to be

held on 26-2-2001 at 12:00 Noon in

the office of the undersigned in

presence of the tenderers who may like

During office hours up to 14-2-2001.

Dhaka/Khulna & Rajshahi.

Division.

b) The intending tenderers must have VAT and TIN certificate.

c) Attested copy of VAT registration & TIN certificate is to be

d) Original money receipt of purchasing tender will have to be

to remain present.

The undersigned reserves the right to accept or reject any or

In case normal banking in general remain suspended due to

any reason whatsoever the next working day will be the

opening date of the tender at the same time and no separate

notice will be issued for this & selling date of tender will not be

all of the tenders without assigning any reason.

12:15 PM.

I/II/III/IV&E/M PWD Divn No I/II/Ctg

seventy-five) only per set of tender.

ance in the coming years.

below:

Name of work

Estimated cost

Earnest money

Time allowed for

completion of

Price of tender

a) Place of

b) Place of

Last date of

selling of tender

a) Eligibility of

contractor to

compete in the

enclosed with tender.

Date of receiving

and opening of

receiving

tender

tender

tender

Lottery

(applicable

where necy)

and

enclosed along with the tender.

the work

schedule

M Nurul Islam, Director of

tion in the banking sector.

He stressed mobilising low-

Khalilur Rahman, Director of

says a press release.

and on-line banking.

The Annual Conference of

investor-friendly policies to this rural region for the seminar the Internet, UNESCO official allow easier access to comput- because of a local community Stella Hughes said. ers and telecommunications, radio that has successfully used the Internet to take the from DOT (Digital Opportunity Annan in a message to a six- world wide web to the local day seminar starting Monday in farming population with im- Group of Eight industrial

> Internet Radio cannot be heard local community radio here. helps them with queries on

have electricity in their homes,

The seminar will hear repre- edge, technology and digital Annan said.

21: United Nations Secretary from the emerging knowledge- can. Latin American and Carib- central themes at the annual bean nations share experiences conference in the Swiss resort The UNESCO has chosen in dealing with the challenges of of Davos next week.

> Task) Force comprised of the countries (G-8) will also attend The Kothmale Community the meeting and be shown the

Hughes said they were also working on sending a message from Kothmale to the World The computers at the station Economic Forum (WEF) in Davos next week where business executives will be discussing can give developing countries the digital divide.

but they are already designing the haves and the have-nots in development that other counareas of health, wealth, knowl- tries have had to go through."

KOTHMALE, Sri Lanka, Jan world's poor will be excluded sentatives from 20 Asian, Afri- know-how will be one of the

The UN Secretary General who is also due to make an She said representatives appearance at Davos said he believed evening up the digital divide may not be easy.

> "Too often state monopolies charge exorbitant prices for the use of bandwidths. Governments need to do their part to create investment-friendly environments and transparent regulatory frameworks to train and retrain the workforce.

"Information technologies the chance to leapfrog some of Bridging the divide between the long and painful stages of



Picture shows the launching ceremony of the new product line-up of Hewlett Packard at Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel in the city on January 17. David Ong, Marketing Manager for Emerging Countries, HP Singapore Pte Ltd, announced the launching.

Asia seen riding out US slowdown

countries should ride out the gist Mokhtar Hassan said exexpected US economic slow- pectations that oil prices will down this year, although Thai- stabilise "may keep inflation land and the Philippines remain under control at two per cent or susceptible to recession, ac- below, while the inflow of forcording to a regional survey eign direct investment would released Sunday, reports AFP.

analysts, government officials mies would react to a US slow- in the US could tip their coun-

US economic growth this for Asia's tech-heavy export- hope has been extinguished, oriented economies.

found most respondents did not Rangsit University. believe that the slowdown second half of the year.

Taiwan's central bank gov-

soft-landing substantively."

SINGAPORE, Jan 21: Asian In Malaysia, IFR Asia stratelikely increase to buffer the The survey of economic economy from a steep decline."

But eight out of 10 responand businessmen in nine Asian dents in Thailand and the cities asked how local econo- Philippines believed a slowdown tries into recession.

"The economy is having for a year is forecast to only rise difficult time. We thought we about two per cent, hitting the could rely on exports to solve gross domestic product figures our problems, now even that said Akravech Chotinaruemol But the Sunday Times poll dean of business at Bangkok's

Akravech was not optimistic would lead to a recession and of major investment flows into economies would pick up in the Thailand because of low investor confidence in the country.

"Our forecast assumption is About one-third of the total that there will be a second-half Philippines outbound trade pick-up," Eddie Lee, regional went to the United States, and economist for Vickers Ballas 60 per cent of the exports to the Investment Research said in US were electronics products and semiconductors.

"If indeed the IT sector will ernor Chen Shih-ment said US lead the slowdown, then this economic figures indicated the will have a significant impact problem was more a fall in con- on Philippine growth," said Buenvenuto Icamina, resident "I would say it is just a hard- economist in the Philippine landing psychologically, but a bureau of the Economist Intelligence Unit think tank.

33.3231 Swiss Franc 33.3231 32.6349 33.3415 0.4674 Japanese Yen 0.4672 0.4552 0.4542 Dutch Guilder 23.3645 23,3775 22.4275 22.3783 6.8407 6.8445 6.6972 6.6625 30.7218 30.7388 29.3722 29.3078 1.2771 1.2764 1.2252 1.2225

54.2800

79.9979

28.3403

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against

53.8150

78.1824

25.2699

Exchange Rates

Selling

TT & OD

54.2500

79.9537

26.3257

the Taka to major clients.

US Dollar

Pound Sta

Deutsche Mark

Danish Krona 6.6735 Australian S 29.2685 Belgian Franc 1.2209 Canadian \$ 36.2682 35.2469 36.2883 35.1225 35.1696 French Franc 7.8537 7.8494 7.5246 7.5181 7.5080 Hong Kong S 6.9699 6.9737 6.8866 6.8715 6.8622 Italian Lira 0.0266 0.0266 0.0255 0.0254 0.0255 Singapore \$ 31.6234 31:6409 30.6376 30.5705 30.5295 Euro 51.5171 51.4887 49.4237 49.3153 49.2492 Saudi Rial 14.5038 14.5118 14.3095 14.2781 14.2589 Bill buying rates 30 Days 60 Days 180 Days 53.3665 52.9181

51.1243 US dollar London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR) Selling(\$) 12 Months Months 53.6250 54.2500 5.7885 5.61125 5.45000 5.35000 77.9064 79.9537 GBP 5.97359 5.86188 5.75000 5.68094 Cash/TC 4.65438 4.56500 Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars Korean Won Rupiah 46.31/46.43 58.95/59.05 43.00/43.10 3.7999/8002 9400/9500 12.72/1275 Amex notes on Sunday's Market

The USD/BDT market was moderately active due to weekend in the international market. The market players usually prefer to buy USD on international weekdays. The USD/BDT rates ranged between 54.14 and 54.1550. The average call rates remained same as yesterday, at around 6-6.5 per cent level.

In the international market on Friday, the Japanese yen surged against the dollar and euro after being whipsawed by conflicting comments on monetary policy and the yen made by Japanese officials, as market players focused on comments suggesting possible steps to bolster the currency.

The euro's steep losses against the yen also dragged the European currency sharply lower against the dollar. At the close of the New York session on Friday, the dollar traded just above 117 yen. It finished the day 0.65 per cent lower than its previous close, and nearly three yen below the 18-month high near 120 yen it hit on Thursday. The euro remained trapped at the day's lows, ending the day near its session low around 93.40 cents against USD, down more then a per cent on the day.

In New York on Friday, the majors closed against US S at 117.12/117.22 JPY, 1.6380/1.6390 CHF, Euro at \$ 0.9334/0.9341 and GBP at \$1.4628/1.4638.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong port Berth position and performance of vessels as on 21.1.2001 Berth Name of vessels Local Date of Leaving Cargo L.Port agent arrival Southern Queen GI(Copra) Sing Acka 28/11 Timber Star (72) GI (St. C) Sing Everett 17/1 21/1 Tenka R.Seed Sing Rainbow Rice(P) Yang Banglar Mookh Wheat(P) Mong Ban Ann GI Sing Prog 16/1 26/1 Pavonis Wheat(P) Mumb SMSL 28/12 22/1 Al Muztuba GI/Rice(P) Pipa CLA Triumph Chittagong GI (St. C) Yang St. Criox GI(Peas) Sing Litmond Jurong Balsam J/13 Banga Lanka CCT/1 Jaya Mars Cont Hald Everett CCT/2 Orient Independence Cont P. Kel Bdship 14/1 23/1 CCT/3 Kota Berjaya Cont Sing Pil (Bd) 13/1 25/1 RM/15 Alam Tabah Agios Fanourios Seacom 14/1 21/1 Enos GI(Y.Ma) Yang SMSL 11/1 Crystal Ace R.Phos Sing Total 30/12 21/1 CUFLJ Mary Nour Cement Lang BSL 7/1 23/1

Vessels due at outer anchorage Name of vessels Date of L.Port Local Cargo Loading arrival call agent 21/1 Held Everett H.R.Coil & GI 21/1 Yang Prog Gi (Maizee) Iran Borhan 21/1 B Abb Seacom R. Phos (TSP)

In a swift move to restore

budget deficit. Romulo, also a former senator, said "the first thing we will do is provide leadership by example.

"We will show through governance that there is a level playing field and a rule of law.

An elated Raul Concepcion, chairman of the Federation of Philippines Industries, said:

He said economic recovery clobbered by steep interest

"When the peso was down to "What the business commu- close shop and even before that

Saudi industry needs Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer Habigonj PWD Division, Habigonj Notice Inviting Tender

Deputy Managing Directors, are seen in the picture.

and Cultural Complex at Habigoni under the project of constn, extension & renovation of 28 nos dist Shilpakala Academy in 2nd phase during the year privatisation process.

foreign investors, will be invited regulations for foreign invest-

Saudi Arabia has 3,300 investments of 64 billion dollars. Salah al-Hussaini, the sec- according to official figures A European trade mission

- NBL photo

look into prospects since last The private sector, including year's introduction of new to finance, promote and man- ment in the oil-rich Gulf Arab

\$160b investment over 20 years RIYADH. Jan 21: Saudi in- Authority, told an economic

তারিখ:২০শে জানুয়ারী,২০০১ইং

স্থান: হোটেল পূর্বাণী ইন্টারন্যাশনাল, ঢাকা

dustry needs 160 billion dollars forum in Jeddah that foreign in investments over the next 20 investment had risen to 1.33 years to double the sector's billion dollars in 2000, as much share of gross domestic product as 40 times more than in 1999. to 20 per cent, a senior official said in an interview published dustrial units with total inon Sunday, reports AFP.

Habibullah, Chairman of National Bank Ltd, delivers his inaugural speech in the Annual Con-

ference of the executives and managers of the bank in the city Saturday. Md Shamsuzzoha,

Director, Rafiqul Islam Khan, Managing Director, and Mostaque Ahmed and Anwar Imam,

retary of state for industry, told published by Al-Hayat. the London-based Arab newspaper Al-Hayat that the king- including representatives of BP dom would set up a body for its Amoco and Shell started a industrial cities to oversee a three-day visit on Saturday to

age the industrial cities, he state.

"One-stop shops" to cut red Prince Abdullah bin Faisal tape for foreign investment have bin Turki, chief of the Saudi been set up as part of a drive to Arabian General Investment diversify sources of revenue.

Government of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer Faridpur PWD Division

Memo No 84 Dated: 11-1-2001/28-9-1407Bang

Notice Inviting Tenders Tender No 43 of 2000-2001

Sealed tenders are hereby invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911 from the approved special class-I/combined class-I/class-I bldg contractors of PWD, class-II bldg contractors of PWD Zone, Khulna for "Construction of Social Handicap (Female) Training and Rehabilitation Centre at Faridpur (Sub-head: Construction of boundary wall)" and will be received by the undersigned as well as by the Divisional Commissioner's office, Dhaka and Executive Engineer. PWD Division, Magura, Jhenidah, Jessore, Kushtia, Chuadanga, Meherpur, Narail and Rajbari in their respective offices up to 12.00 Noon of 7-2-2001. The estimated cost of the work is Taka 22,89,447.00 only and the earnest money is Taka 45,789.00 in TC/PO/BD from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh or Pratirakha Sanchaya Patra, Bonus Sanchaya Patra, 5 Yrs BD Sanchaya Patra must accompany each tender duly endorsed to the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Faridpur. Otherwise his/their tender shall be declared informal. No tender form, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. will be sold after 6-2-2001. The tender paper, schedule of items, additional terms and conditions etc. may be obtained from the office of the undersigned as well as by the Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka Office and all the Executive Engineers under PWD Zone, Khulna and office of the Additional Chief Engineer, Dhaka Zone, Chittagong Zone and Rajshahi Zone on all working days during office hours on payment of usual charge of Tk 750.00 (Taka seven hundred fifty) per set of the tender schedule and a sum of Tk 25/- (Taka twenty-five) only per copy of Tender Form No 2911 (both non-refundable). Details may be seen from the office of the undersigned

during office hours. Md Syedur Rahman DFP-1425-17/1

Executive Engineer Faridpur PWD Division.

Filipino investor faith set to rebound

MANILA. Jan 21: Philippine hit a record low of 55.75 stocks and the country's bat- against the dollar last week. tered currency were expected to should recover to allow enough perk up with the installation of breathing space for the econa business-friendly government omy, saying: "As an economist led by US-trained economist let me tell you that it's not safe Gloria Arroyo, but analysts to give a number." cautioned against over-

exuberance, reports AFP. President Arroyo will face an uphill task rebuilding the economy, which has been hit by eroding investor confidence and political uncertainty amid allegations of excessive graft and 'cronyism" under her ousted predecessor Joseph Estrada.

Newly-picked Finance Secretary Alberto Romulo said it could take up to five years to get the economy back on a strong footing. "It will take a minimum of

two years to get back on our feet. Some are even more unkind, they say it will take five years or even more," he told local radio. Foreign investors first

started packing up in January last year after Estrada intervened to allegedly save a business crony from being investigated in the country's largest insider trading scandal. The peso has since hit his-

toric lows and the Philippine stock market is among the worst, if not the very poorest performer in Southeast Asia with trading volumes slashed by more than half from a year

On Friday, the peso recovered dramatically to a high of 47.00 to the dollar from the previous day's close of 54.79, as news of mass defections to the anti-Estrada camp hit the market at the tail end of trading. Estrada was ousted on Saturday after the supreme court 55 (to the dollar), many of the declared the presidency vacant. businesses were beginning to nity needs is transparency and some were even laying off peoa level playing field," Arroyo ple and implementing a foursaid at the weekend after being day work week." Concepcion sworn-in as the 14th president said. of the resource-rich but poverty-wracked archipelago of 76 million people.

by how much the peso, which out political risk.

She said "confidence" was a vital factor for the currency.

Arroyo, the first Philippine president with strong economic credentials, has to contend with

a plethora of problems to tame an economy hit by high interest rates, inflation and unemployment, weak currency and stocks and a yawning budget deficit. But Prime Minister Goh

Chok Tong of Singapore, Southeast Asia's financial and business centre, expressed confidence Sunday Arroyo would restore confidence.

business optimism. Arroyo's first appointment to the cabinet was Finance Secretary Romulo, whose previous experience as a state budget planner should help contain the ballooning

"We are back in business." with the strengthening of the peso would help stop the bleeding among businesses

Dea Captan

Seabulk Command

Central Bank governor Rafael Buenaventura said he expected the peso to settle at Arroyo declined to forecast 45-46 against the dollar with-



Commerce Minister MA Jalil inaugurates the pavilion of Spanish Olive Oil at DITF-2001 on Friday.

PR PROPERTY OF THE PROPERTY OF				10 11100 (101)	
Banga Birol (Cont) 8/1	22/1	P. Kel		Cont	Sing.
Tiger River(Cont)8/1	19/1	Sing	NOL	Cont	Sing
Liberty Star	20/1	Seat	LAMS	Wheat(G)	
Beluga	21/1	Yema	OTBL		
Marigold-1	21/1	Sura	OTBL		
Sentosa	22/1		SBS	C.Clink(MiCeme	nt) -
Chyssiv	21/1	Sing	Seacom		
Al Salimiah	22/1	Dubai	Concord		
Andhika Adikarya(72)16/1	22/1	Kaoh	ASA	G(\I(St.C)	
Qc Pintail(Cont)8/1	26/1		QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Biraj(Cont)17/1	23/1		Bdship	Cont	Sing
Acturia(Cont)16/1	21/1		QCSL	Cont	Sing
Boxer Capt Cook(Cont)14/	122/1		Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banga Biraj (Cont)17/1	24/1	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Xpress Resolve(Cont)15/1	24/1		RSL	Cont	Sing
Jaami(Cent)14/1	25/1		Cross	Cont	Sing
Da Fa(Cont)15/1	25/1		RSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Nuptse(Cont)16/1	25/1		RSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik(Cont)16/1	25/1	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shikha(Cont)15/1	30/1	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Hilda	26/1		OII	GI	
Buxmoon (Cont)18/1	27/1		RSL	Cont	Sing.
Joy World(72)17/1	27/1		SSLL	GI(St.C)	
QC Teal (Cont)18/1	29/1	-	QCSL	Cont	Sing.
Kota Cahaya (Cont)18/1	29/1	Sing	Pil (Bd)	Cont	Sing
	Tar	ker d	ue:		
Olympic Pride	22/1	-	ECSL	LBO	
Havjarl	24/1	Papa	MBL		
Name of vessels	Cargo	Last	Port	Local	Date of
			call	agent	arrival
V	essels	of Ku	tubdia		
Energy Explorer-IV		300		BBAL	5/4
Ismaya	-			BBAL	17/8
Dea Conquerror				Arafeen R/A	(31/12)

R/A(6/1) Vessels at outer anchorage: Ready on: 17/1 Arabella (Cont) CSL Cont 18/1 Spring Ocean HR Coil Yang Everett Kuo Hsiung (Cont) 19/1 Cont P. Kel 20/1 Kota Singa (Cont) Pil (Bd) Cont Sing Eagle Aries SKO/JP-1 21/1 Sing C. Coll R/A(20/1) Banglar Jyoti Vessels not ready: 11/1 Momb SMSL Eltanin Wheat(P) 15/1 SMSL Momb Jasmine Wheat(P) AEKA 18/1 Sing Gi (Copra) Noumea Express Vessels awaiting instruction: Samara SMSL R/A(10/1) Banglar Urmi R/A(14/1)

R/A(17/1)

	-	DOC	K/M14/1
		CCNL	R/A(8/1
		BSC	R/A(19/1)
Vessels no	t enterir	ng:	
Gtsp	Tini	Ltimond	10/1
Tsp(P)	Yarna	BSL	14/1
Scraping	Sing	JF	15/1
Scraping		OTBL	16/1
	Mong	OTBL	15/2
Scraping	Yang	OTBL	4/1
	Kawa	OTDL	19/1
	Persi	Simni	21/1
Cement	Sing	Viking	5/4
		Sunshine	R/A(9/10)
Rice(G)		MHCSL	R/A(20/6)
Rice(G)		USTC	R/A(18/9)
	Gtsp Tsp(P) Scraping Scraping Scraping Scraping Scraping Scraping Cement Rice(G)	Gtsp Tini Tsp(P) Varna Scraping Sing Scraping Mong Scraping Yang Scraping Kawa Scrating Persi Cement Sing Rice(G)	Vessels not entering: Gtsp Tini Ltimond Tsp(P) Varna BSL Scraping Sing JF Scraping OTBL Scraping Mong OTBL Scraping Yang OTBL Scraping Kawa OTDL Scrating Persi Simni Cement Sing Viking Rice(G) MHCSL

Shifting Income Outgoing J/11 Kuolisiung GSJ Enos to J/4 Tenka A. Fanourios J/3 Nourmea Express J/11 J Balsam to CCT/1 RM/9 B. Shourabh C. Ace GSJ B. Urmi DOJ B. Jyou TSP I. Dorhan

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

DFP-1413-17/1 G-173

changed

Executive Engineer PWD Divn Habigonj.