

\$1b out of \$ 4.5b pledged aid reaches Afghanistan

AFP, Tehran

The international community is waiting for a political stabilisation of Afghanistan to send the promised financial aid there, the administrator of the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) said Sunday.

Mark Malloch Brown told AFP that less "than one billion" dollars out of the 4.5 billion pledged over five years for reconstruction purposes during the January Tokyo donors' conference had been paid, 400 million of which through the UNDP.

"The countries are ready to post

the money. However money has not yet flowed into Afghanistan due to political instability, they wait for Loya Jirga, in June," he said, predicting "a rapid acceleration of financing" will follow.

The Loya Jirga is a traditional council to be held next month which will select a new government and is perceived as the first step towards a stable democracy in the war-ravaged country.

"After the Loya Jirga, we will have a government for two years, and the situation will be more stable", said Malloch Brown, who chaired Saturday and Sunday in

Tehran a conference attended by the Afghan, Iranian, and Pakistani finance ministers and leading company heads.

According to Malloch Brown "there is lack of money for three important aims: anti-narcotics campaign, security of the country, and the budget". "I am a bit disappointed for that", he said.

So far the United States has made "the highest aid offer", he added.

He underscored the "big importance of cooperation between Iran and Pakistan both at the frontline" of reconstruction of Afghanistan.

Malaysia okays \$1.2b Chinese investment

ASIANET, Dalian

Malaysia has approved 80 investments with a total capital outlay of US\$1.2 billion from China as at March this year, said International Trade and Industry Minister Mrs Rafidah Aziz.

She said the approved projects were mainly in basic metal products, electrical and electronic products, chemical & chemical products and beverages and tobacco.

At present, more than 50 companies with Chinese interests are operating in Malaysia's manufacturing and non-manufacturing sector, Rafidah told a "Malaysia-China Business Opportunities Seminar" here on Thursday.

The seminar, organised by Malaysian Industrial Development Authority (MIDA) and Malaysia External Trade Development Corporation (MATRADE) with the cooperation of Dalian Foreign Trade and Economic Cooperation Bureau, is aimed at strengthening bilateral ties among the public and private sectors between Liaoning Province, Dalian and Malaysia.

Training course for Dhaka Bank officers held

A 12-day training course on "Banking Laws and Practices" for the officers of Dhaka Bank Limited (DBL) was held at its training institute from April 28 to May 12, says a press release.

Majedur Rahman, executive vice president of DBL was addressed the valedictory session on the concluding day and distributed certificates among the participants.

Mohammad Abu Musa, executive vice president, Arham Masudul Huq, executive vice president and company secretary, Shamshad Begum, senior vice president and principal of the training institute and Dr M Saiful Karim Chowdhury, assistant vice president and faculty member were present on the occasion.

Nineteen officers of different levels from the head office and different branches of the bank were participate in the course.



PHOTO: AFP

A Muslim woman tries on a pair of shoes at a shopping mall in Kuala Lumpur. Economic officials say Malaysia's economy is on track to meet a 3.5 per cent growth forecast this year but analysts say it could grow at a higher rate than the official forecast.

Riyadh welcomes Iranian skilled manpower

AFP, Riyadh

Oil-rich Saudi Arabia has said it welcomes skilled manpower from Gulf neighbour Iran, especially in the medical field, an Iranian embassy spokesman said Sunday.

The Saudi minister of labour and social affairs, Ali al-Namla, made the announcement following talks with his Iranian counterpart Sayed Safdar Husseini, who is on an official visit to the kingdom, the spokesman told AFP.

Saudi Arabia is the only Gulf Arab state with almost no Iranian workers, apparently a hangover from decades of political rivalry between the two regional powers.

Hundreds of thousands of Iranians work in other Gulf states especially in Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and

Qatar, while the number of Iranians in Saudi Arabia is only a few hundred, mostly restaurant workers.

"There has been no Saudi official ban on Iranian manpower, but traditionally there have been no Iranians in the kingdom for the past 50 years," the spokesman said.

Namla told the Iranian minister that the Saudi labour market is open to all nationalities, and there will be no complications for recruiting Iranian skilled manpower," the embassy official said.

Husseini also met with Saudi Health Minister Osama Shobokshi and discussed supplying Iranian medical staff to Saudi hospitals, the spokesman added.

About seven million foreigners live in the kingdom, five million of whom are classed as workers, both Asians and

Arabs. Relations between the two Gulf powers have improved in recent years, with Riyadh and Tehran inking in April 2001 a security pact to fight drug trafficking and terrorism.

The deal between the number one and number two oil producers in the OPEC oil cartel also touches on money-laundering, border surveillance and Gulf territorial waters.

The Saudi government ratified in September the agreement which was signed in Tehran by Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul Aziz and Iranian counterpart Abdolvahed Mussavi-Lari, following a landmark visit by the prince.

Iran's reformist President Mohammad Khatami visited the kingdom in 1999, and the two nations have since worked together to orchestrate OPEC policies.



Institute of Management Consultants Bangladesh (IMCB) organised a six-day workshop on "Management Consulting Skills" at BIAM recently. Picture shows the participants with Reid B Lohr, project director of JOBS, M Saiful Haq, president of IMCB and SRGB, and Abdul Karim, first vice-president of IMCB and MD of MIDAS.

CURRENCY

Following is yesterday's foreign exchange rate statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Sell	Buy			
	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer	
58.5500	58.5800	USD 57.4000	57.2314	57.1629
54.3812	54.4091	EUR 52.3373	52.1836	52.1211
85.8811	85.9251	GBP 83.2300	82.9855	82.8862
32.7763	32.7931	AUD 31.1854	31.0938	31.0566
0.4681	0.4683	JPY 0.4535	0.4521	0.4516
37.2621	37.2812	CHF 36.1848	36.0785	36.0354
5.5677	5.5706	SEK 5.3816	5.3658	5.3594
38.0863	38.1058	CAD 36.9298	36.8213	36.7773
7.5150	7.5188	HKD 7.3542	7.3326	7.3238
32.8748	32.8916	SGD 31.9599	31.8660	31.8279
16.0724	16.0806	AED 15.5026	15.4571	15.4386
15.7371	15.7452	SAR 15.1852	15.1406	15.1225

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Lankan Rupee	Thai Baht	Nor Kroner	NZ Dollar	AUD
48.98/49.03	60.13/60.15	96.10/96.20	42.58/42.61	8.9613/8.9703	0.4637/4647	0.5513/0.5518

The local interbank foreign exchange market was active Monday. Demand for dollar was steady. Demand for BDT for overnight borrowing at call was steady and the call rate ranged between 8 and 9 per cent for the day.

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 20. 05.2002.

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival	Leaving	Imprt disc
JJ/2	Amanat Shah	GI(S.Ash)	Col	Cla	17/4	20/5	244
J/9	Banglar Robi	Cont	Sing	BSC	18/5	21/5	237/95
J/11	Orient Patriot	Cont	P.Kel	PSSL	17/5	22/5	177/17
J/12	QC Lark	Cont	P.Kel	QCSL	16/5	20/5	469/88
J/13	Kota Berjaya	Cont	Sing	Pi(BD)	17/5	21/5	47/X
CCT/1	Mardios	Cont	P.Kel	RSL	17/5	21/5	393/X
CCT/2	Banga Shikha	Cont	Sing	BSC	18/5	23/5	133/32
CCT/3	Qc Honour	Cont	P.Kel	RSL	17/5	22/5	393/X
RM/14	Ocean Queen	-	-	-	21/5	21/5	-
TSP	Banglar Mookh	R Sulp	B Abb	BSC	30/4	22/5	-
RM/4	Global No.1	Cpo	Sand	Rainbow	17/5	19/5	-
DDJ	Torm anne	Hsd	Juba	ECSL	17/7	22/5	-
DD	Banglar Jyoti	REpair	-	BSC	R/A	25/5	-
RM/9	Al Muztuba	IDL	Col	Cla	2/5	22/5	-
RM/10	Banglar Shourabh	Repair	-	BSC	R/A	22/5	-
K(U)	St. Aubin	Urea	Daman	Everest	13/5	22/5	-

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L Port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Shun AN(Liner)	20/5	Sing	RML	GI	-
Banglar Gourab	20/5	Krabi	OWSL	C Clink	-
Jin Cheng(Liner)	19/5	-	BDSHP	GI	-]
Ever wise (Liner)	20/5	-	Prog	GI	-
Sinhai(Cont)/7/5	21/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Achiever(Cont)/9/5	20/5	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Jaya Mars(Cont)/3/5	21/5	COB	Everbest	Cont	Col
Jurong Bauhinia(Cont)/5/5	20/5	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing]]
Orient Freedom(Cont)/11/5	21/5	-	PSSL	Cont	Sing]]
Pearl of Bahrain	21/5	Koshi	Uniship	C.Clink	-]
Magda	21/5	Krab	SSA	C.Clink	-
Banglar Moni(Cont)/5/5	22/5	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Banga Birol(Cont)/9/5	22/5	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
Hellespont Capitol	22/5	-	JF	Scraping	-
Hellespont Paramount	2/5	-	JF	Scraping	-
Banga Bijoy (Cont) 13/5	23/5	-	Baridhi	Cont	Col
QC Dignity(Cont)/12/5	23/5	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banglar Maya	24/5	Okha	BSC	GI(S.Ash)	-
Jaami(Cont) 19/5	24/5	Okha	BSC	GI(S.Ash)	-
Wind Song	25/5	B. Abb	Rkship	Bitumen	-
Colinsistence(Cont)/15/5	25/5	-	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Kota Cahaya(Cont)/15/5	25/5	Sing	Pi(BD)	Cont	Sing
QC Teal(Cont)/14/5	26/5	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	-
Banga Barta(Cont)/16/5	26/5	-	Bdship	Cont	-
Amarta Jaya-I(48)/9/5	26/5	Buat	ASA	GI(Woodup)	-
QC Pintail(Cont)/12/5	27/5	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Xpress Manaslu(Cont) 18/5	27/5	-	RSL	Cont	Sing
Kuo Hsiung(Cont)/18/5	27/5	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Banga Bonik(Cont)/12/5	23/5	-	Bdship	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Hamina	21/5	Sing	ECSL	HSD&MST	-
Tirta Niaga-VIII	21/5	Dumal	Seacom	GPO	-
Jag Pragati	21/5	Sing	MSTPL	Sko/JP-1	-

Vessels at Kutubdia

Dea Captain	-	-	Arafeen	R/A(28/1)	-
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on					
Kota Singa (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pi(BD)	USL	20/5
Kota naga (Cont)	Cont	Sing	Pi(BD)	USL	20/5
Katong	CPO	Bela	USL	USL	20/5

Vessels not ready

Patchara Naree	PHOS	Aqaba	Litmond	14/5
Amalfi	C Clin	Pada	KSL	14/5
Lincoln Shire	Ammonia	Para	MBL	15/5
Vegalis	C.Clink	Lunut	SSA	17/5
Rak Won	Urea	Sing	MBL	19/5
Radiant Star	C.Clink	Pipi	OLM	19/5

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

STOCK