

Suppliers ready for Asia nuclear power plants

REUTERS, Singapore

From India to China, energy-deficient Asia is spending billions of dollars to build nuclear power plants, sparking fierce competition among global equipment makers for the bonanza.

The blossoming of nuclear power in Asia, where 18 of the world's 31 units under construction are located, is dubbed by some as a renaissance of the sector and has become a massive magnet for European, Canadian and Russian suppliers.

The lure is so strong that the United States may relax this year its curbs on the sensitive technology transfer to select Asian nations as

China has other sources of nuclear expertise.

"Nuclear power will certainly continue to increase as a share of the region's capacity and that's mainly driven by activities in China and India," said Charles Chang, Asia power and gas analyst at rating agency Fitch.

Nuclear fuel makes up 1.4-3.7 percent of the power output in Asia's two most populous nations, below the 35-40 percent for Japan and South Korea and 78 percent for France.

Few projects have broken ground in the West in the past few years as environmental, health and security concerns have persisted since the Chernobyl accident in

1986. A growing number of aging nuclear plants in Europe are reaching their expiry dates and it has not been decided if they would be replaced.

To clinch the lucrative contracts in Asia, nuclear equipment suppliers have focused on their safety records as well as competitive investment and production costs, analysts said.

Suppliers also have to convince their own governments to let them export such sensitive technologies. The governments must also build good ties to win such deals, industry experts said.

The suppliers include Framatome ANP, a venture between France's Areva and Germany's Siemens, Electricite de France, and

Atomic Energy of Canada Ltd, an unlisted global nuclear equipment maker, and Russia.

Framatome said on its Web site it "is ready to take part in the new development phase of the Chinese nuclear program" and "is ready to issue the most suitable proposal to allow the Chinese industry to become more and more self-sufficient."

Washington bars firms such as Pittsburgh-based Westinghouse Electric Co, a unit of state-owned British Nuclear Fuels Ltd, and General Electric, from building reactors in China.

But industry sources said Washington was expected to ease its control on China in September.



PHOTO: PREMIER BANK

SK Sur Chowdhury, deputy general manager, Off Site Supervision Department of Bangladesh Bank, speaks at a workshop on 'Credit risk management' organised by the Premier Bank Training Institute in Dhaka on Thursday. BH Haroon, vice-chairman of the bank, and Advisor Kazi Abdul Mazid are, among others, seen in the picture.



PHOTO: CITY BANK

Deputy Managing Director of The City Bank Limited A HM Nazmul Quadir speaks at the inauguration of a daylong training course titled 'Prevention of Money Laundering' for executives of the bank in Dhaka on Friday. General Manager of Anti-money Laundering Department of Bangladesh Bank Md Harunur Rashid Chowdhury was also present.

S Korea spends more state money to boost growth

AFP, Seoul

The South Korean government boosted the spending of state funds this year to spur economic growth, private consumption and corporate investment, official data showed Sunday.

For the first quarter of this year, the

government spent 43.4 trillion won (38 billion dollars), up 10.2 percent from a year ago, according to the Ministry of Planning and Budget.

The amount, 27 percent of the government's total outlays for 2004, included 5.4 trillion won for social overhead capital projects, it said.

South Korea's economy showed

signs of recovery from February with domestic consumption and corporate investment finally rebounding from a prolonged slump.

Last week the central Bank of Korea raised its forecast for this year's economic growth to six percent from 5.2 percent projected four months ago.

Opec's March production unlikely to fall in April

AFP, Paris

Opec, excluding Iraq, produced 25.8 million barrels a day of oil in March and this figure is unlikely to fall much in April, the International Energy Agency reported on Friday.

Production by Iraq rose by about 500,000 barrels per day in March and at this rate, in the absence of unforeseen events, the country should be able to export 2.0 million barrels per day in the next few months, the agency said in its monthly report.

The March figure for production by the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries was in line with production figures for the previous five months, the agency noted.

Commercial stocks of oil products in industrialised countries grouped in the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development fell by 1.03 billion barrels per day to 2,462 billion barrels at the end of February from the January figure, the agency said.

But the February figure was 124 million barrels more than a year ago, the agency, which has warned for month about low stocks in industrialised countries, said.



PHOTO: ACME LABORATORIES

The Annual Sales Conference-2003 of the ACME Laboratories Ltd was held in Dhaka on Saturday. (From left to right) Marketing Manager Golam Rabbani Bhuiyan, Executive Director Dabir Uddin, Executive Director Saber Reza Karim, Executive Director Hasibur Rahman, Director (Sales and Marketing) Md Rafiqul Islam, Deputy Managing Director Afzalur Rahman Sinha, Deputy Managing Director Jabir Rahman Sinha, directors Sabrina Sinha, Rezaur Rahman Sinha, Tanveer Sinha and Sinha Motiur Rahman are seen at the conference.

CURRENCY

Following is Sunday's (April 11, 2004) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank

Sell			Buy		
TT/OD	BC	Currency	TT Clean	OD Sight/Doc	OD Transfer
59.3000	59.3500	USD	58.4050	58.2334	58.1637
72.7433	72.8046	EUR	69.7765	69.5715	69.4882
109.6635	109.7560	GBP	106.2562	105.9441	105.8173
46.1058	46.1446	AUD	43.8914	43.7624	43.7101
0.5626	0.5630	JPY	0.5427	0.5412	0.5405
46.6526	46.6918	CHF	45.1667	45.0340	44.9801
7.8133	7.8199	SEK	7.2873	7.2659	7.2572
44.9651	45.0030	CAD	43.5598	43.4319	43.3799
7.6153	7.6217	HKD	7.4822	7.4602	7.4513
35.5324	35.5623	SGD	34.6227	34.5210	34.4797
16.2769	16.2906	AED	15.7728	15.7264	15.7076
15.9400	15.9534	SAR	15.4511	15.4057	15.3872
10.0325	10.0409	DKK	9.1118	9.0851	9.0742
201.8655	202.0357	KWD	190.3931	189.8339	189.6067

Exchange rates of some currencies against US dollar

Indian rupee	Pak rupee	Lankan rupee	Thai bath	Nor kroner	NZ dollar	Malaysian ringgit
43.595	57.395	97.6	39.208	6.9303	0.7106	3.80

SHIPPING

Chittagong port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 11.4.2004

Berth No	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import Disch
J/1	Asean Energy	GI (Log)	Yang	Mhsl	9/4	14/4	1176
J/2	Thanh Son	GI	Sing	ASA	9/4	12/4	2980
J/3	Kranj	GI	Sing	ANCL	8/4	11/4	659
J/4	Sagaing	GI	yang	Everett	10/4	14/4	671
J/5	Amanat Shah	Rice/Wt	Viza	Cl	12/3	11/4	
J/7	Jimakos-T	Sugar(T)	Bank	Litmond	3/4	13/4	3092
CCT/1	X.Manaslu	Cont	P.Kel	RSL	9/4	12/4	356
CCT/2	Jaami	Cont	Col	Everbest	9/4	11/4	261
DD:	Banga Bijoy	Hsd	Sing	MSTPL	9/4	11/4	
DDJ-1	Dea Captain	-	Kidia	BSA	R/A	12/4	
CUFJL	Eagle Strength	Idle	Sing	Nol	21/9	-	

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessel	Date of arrival	L. Port call	L. Agent	N. of Cargo	Loading ports
Rio Negro (Cont) 31/3	11/4	P.Kel	QCSL	Cont	L/Sing
Htone ywa	11/4	-	Total	Black Map	
Pulau Senbu	11/4	Jaka	Pacific	Scraping	
B.Shikha (Cont) 31/3	11/4	Sing	BSC	Cont	L/Sing
New Blessing (Cont)3/4	11/4	P.Kel	Seaborn	Cont	L/Sing
Dongtai Fortune (Cont)25/3	11/4	sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	L/Sing
B.Mookh	12/4	Kaki	BSL	C.Clink	Unique
O.Excellence (Cont)3/4	12/4	Sing	PSSL	Cont	L/Sing
Bhoruka Vikram	12/4	Yang	Kaptai	GI(Log)	
O.Wisdom (Cont)3/4	12/4	Col	PSSL	Cont	L.Col
Khyuchevskaya Sopka	12/4	Sing	Rsship	Demolition	
B.Bodor (Cont)1/4	13/4	sing	Bdship	Cont	L/Pki/Sing
B.Barfa (Cont) 25/3	14/4	Sing	Bdship	Cont	L/Ptp/Sing
Pavonis	13/4	Kand	ASCL	Wheat(G)	
Naples	13/4	Italy	Rsship	Demolition	
K.Berjaya (Cont)1/4	13/4	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	L/Sing

Tanker Due

Dailong	15/4	Sing	MSTPL	HSD/MS	RM/5
Alkuwaitiah	16/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/JP-1	RM/5
Al Sabiyah	19/4	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	RM/

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	Last port call	Local agent	Date of Arrival
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Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Banga Bonik (Cont)	Cont	Col	Baridhi	11/4
Budiarnan (Cont)	Cont	Sing	PIL (BD)	11/4

Vessels not ready

Salamat-I	Bitumen	Hald	OLM	25/3
Amar	Sugar(P)	Bang	Mutual	2/4
Derwent	-	Sing	Mutual	7/4
Banglar Mamata	Wheat(G)	-	Lams	R/A

Vessel awaiting instruction

Banga Biraj	-	-	BDship	R/A
Banglar Shourabh	-	-	BSC	R/A
Banglar Jyoti	-	-	BSC	R/A
Vessels Not entering				
Banglar Robi	C.Clink	Lumut	USL	30/3

The following were Saturday's (11-4-2004) shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by Family, Dhaka.

STOCK