

Apec leaders asked to consider forging free trade area

AFP, Washington

Leaders of 21 Asia-Pacific economies are being pressed to consider forging a regional free trade area to spur global liberalisation.

The proposal to set up the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific was made by the business lobby of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, whose leaders gather for

annual talks in Santiago, Chile November 20-21.

The Apec Business Advisory Council said in a report to the leaders that they needed to display "strong political commitment" to successfully negotiate a regionwide free trade agreement, which could bring significant benefits to the region as a whole.

The 21 Apec economies, includ-

ing the United States, Japan, Russia, China and most Southeast Asian economies, account for nearly half of world trade and generate 70 percent of global economic growth.

Apec, which operates by consensus, is implementing a non-binding tariff-busting plan to achieve free trade and investment among developed member economies by 2010

and developing members 10 years later.

Critics say the plan, adopted during a leaders' meeting in Bogor, Indonesia in 1994, is ineffective and needs to be overhauled.

ABAC believes its free trade agreement proposal would accelerate the Bogor goals and liberalisation under the World Trade Organisation, the global trade watchdog.

The United States reacted cautiously to ABAC's proposal.

"Well, you have to go to Santiago to find out," Deputy US Trade Representative Peter Algeier said.

But American economist Fred Bergsten, among the "eminent persons" who helped establish Apec, hailed the Free Trade Area of the Asia-Pacific plan, saying it would revitalise the WTO process and integrate the region.

"The only decisive way to restart the momentum of both Apec and global trade liberalisation, with all its political and security as well as economic benefits, is to launch the FTAAP process at Santiago," he said.

"Buyers are voting with their feet.

Futures prices were too high and stocks seem to be ample," said William Buchanan at Standard Bank in London.

"The insatiable desire for sweet crude seems to have fizzled out. There is a prompt glut coming up to the end of the year and people are less and less willing to pay up for expensive crude," Buchanan added.

Oil prices fall on signs of rising supply

REUTERS, London

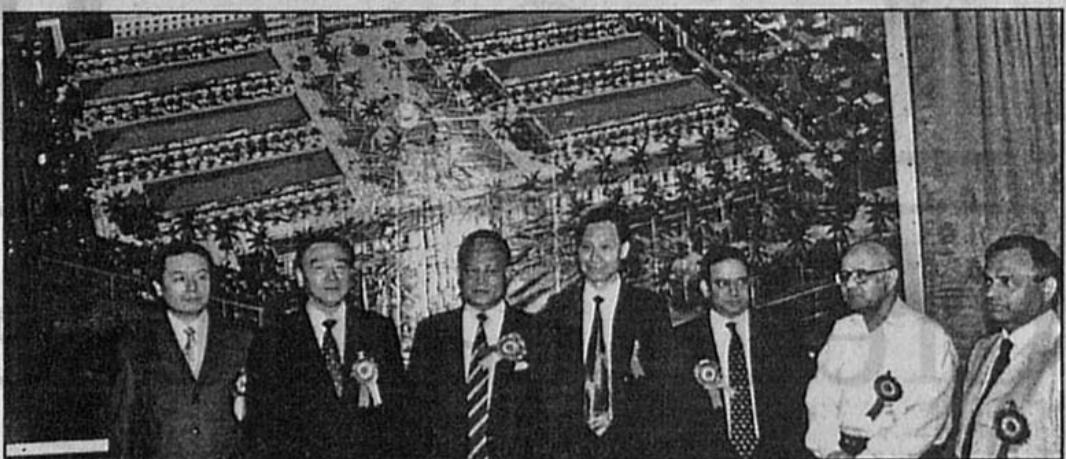
World oil prices eased on Thursday as signs of strong supply on physical crude markets encouraged dealers to take profits from a bounce in the previous session.

US light crude slipped under \$49 a barrel to trade 56 cents a barrel lower at \$48.30, more than \$7 lower than the record \$55.67 peak struck in late October.

Brent crude in London lost 45 cents to \$44.30 a barrel, unwinding gains of over a dollar on Wednesday triggered by a fresh fall in US heating fuel stocks ahead of winter.

The Energy Information Administration (EIA) reported a 1.8 million barrel rise in US crude inventories on Wednesday, almost closing the deficit against a year earlier. This is the seventh week in a row that crude stocks have risen.

"Buyers are voting with their feet. Futures prices were too high and stocks seem to be ample," said William Buchanan at Standard Bank in London.



Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury and China National Chamber of Commerce President Wang Zhi Guo pose for photographs on Tuesday in Dhaka at the inauguration of a Tk 40 crore Chinese wholesale market project in Bangladesh. The market styled Bangladesh China Commercial Town will be set up at Kanchpur in Narayanganj and will go into operations in April next year.

Directorate General Defence Purchase						
Ministry of Defence						
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215						
Tender Notice						
Sl No.	Name of items & qty	From	Date of selling	To	Date of opening	Currency
a.	Intercom System Qty-05 Sets	21-11-2004 to 15-12-2004		19-12-2004	Local	9233/AP-4 Tk 150.00
b.	Digital & Analogue Multimeter Qty-(19+1)=30 Ea	21-11-2004 to 15-12-2004		19-12-2004	Local	9234/AP-4 Tk 100.00
c.	Guy Tension Measuring Meter Qty-01 Ea	21-11-2004 to 15-12-2004		19-12-2004	Local	9235/AP-4 Tk 50.00
d.	Earth Tester Qty-02 Ea	21-11-2004 to 15-12-2004		19-12-2004	Local	9236/AP-4 Tk 200.00
e.	Hookon Meter Qty-01 Ea	21-11-2004 to 15-12-2004		19-12-2004	Local	9237/AP-4 Tk 50.00
f.	Electronic Vigilance System of BAF Qty-01 Set	21-11-2004 to 15-12-2004		19-12-2004	Local	9205/AP-4 Tk 100.00
2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment in respective value (non-refundable) on any working day between 0800 hrs to 1300 hrs. The tender will be opened on the specified date at 1200 hrs in presence of the bidders (if present).						
ISPR/Misc/04/996 DFP-26907-8/11/04 G-1108						
Squadron Leader for Director General						



Mahboob Hossain, general manager and head of Distribution of GrameenPhone (GP) Ltd, and Zohair Shafiq, managing director of Communic Park Ltd, sign an agreement on behalf of their organisations recently in Dhaka. Under the deal, Communic Park, a sister concern of DEC Group, has become a GP dealer.

Dhaka International Trade Fair-2005	
Export Promotion Bureau	
Dhaka	
Time extension for sale and submission of applications form for participation in the Dhaka International Trade Fair-2005.	
This is for the information of all concerned that the time for selling of applications form for allotment of space of all categories in DITF-2005 has been extended from earlier declared 21 st November 2004 to 4 th December 2004.	
i) Application forms from Local and Foreign Participants will be received up to 5 th December 2004 during office hours in the Finance and Accounts Section of Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka instead of 21 st November, 2004.	
ii) Offer for Premier Pavilion, Premier Mini- Pavilion, Premier Stall, Restaurant and Drinks Kiosk shall have to be dropped in the tender box kept in the Export Promotion Bureau, Dhaka/Fair Cell DITF-2005, Ministry Commerce (Bld. No. 3, Room No. 127), Bangladesh secretariat, Dhaka/ Office of the Additional Divisional Commissioner (General) (First 12-Storied Building, 2 nd Floor, Room No. 303), Segunbagicha, Dhaka on 6 th December, 2004 up to 2.00 pm instead of 21st November, 2004.	
iii) All the terms and conditions will remain the same.	
Director	
Dhaka International Trade Fair-2005 Secretariat	
Export Promotion Bureau	
TCB Bhaban (1 st floor), 1, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215	
Phone : 9144821-23/114, Fax : 880-2-9119531	
E-mail: epb.bd@aitlbd.net, website: www.epb.gov.bd	

Rural Electrification Board	
Invitation for Bids	
"বিদ্যুতের অপচয় রোধ করন"	

1. Project Name - (if applicable)	Intensification & Expansion of Distribution Line of 9 PBS , Intensification & Expansion of Distribution Line of 67PBS				
2. Source of Funds	GOB Local. Payment will be made directly to the suppliers in local Taka Currency.				
3. Bid Package No.	45.67PBS.85-12, 45.9PBS.68-14, 45.67PBS.85-15				
4. Invitation for Bids Ref. & Date	REB/DP/GAF-228-12, 14,15(Electrical Goods)/2004/168, Dated- 08/11/2004.				
5. Bid Name	Electrification & Distribution Commodities (Sub-Station Accessories, Conductor-Duplex & Cross Arm-Wood)				
6. Eligibility of Bidders	Bangladeshi Manufacturer.				
7. Regarding Bid Document	A complete set of bidding document in English may be purchased by interested bidders on the submission of a written application to the address below and upon payment of a non-refundable fee Tk. 3000.00 (Taka Three Thousand) in the form Pay Order/Bank draft in favour of Rural Electrification Board. No Document will be sent by courier or mail. One Bid document cannot be used for submission of bid proposal(s) by more than one bidder. One Bidder, however, may submit bids against any number of IFB's included in the bid package by purchasing only one copy of the Bid document.				
8. Name and address of the Office(s) Selling Bid Document	As mentioned below				
9. Name and address of the Office(s) Receiving Bids	As mentioned below				
10. Name and address of the Office Opening Bids	As mentioned below				
11. Last Date and Time for Selling Bid Document	14/12/2004 up to 4 : 00 PM				
12. Last Date and Time for Submission of Bids	15/12/04 up to 12 : 00 Noon Bangladesh as Betar time.				
13. Date and Time for Opening of Bids	15/12/04 at 12 :30 P.M. At that time Bidders and their authorised representatives are allowed to attend.				
14. Date, Time & Place of Pre-Bid Meeting (Optional)	Not Applicable				
15. Brief Description of Goods /Related Services					
Lot No	Description	Location (Bid Package)	Price of Bid Document in Tk	Tender Security Amount in Tk	Time of Completion of Delivery in weeks
A 45.67PBS.85-064 & 45.67PBS.85-065	Conductor-Duplex & Cross Arm-Wood	45.67PBS.85-12	3000.00	500,000.00 & 300,000.00	13 weeks
B 45.9PBS.68-035.1	Sub-Station Accessories	45.9PBS.68-14	3000.00	300,000.00	13 week
C 45.67PBS.85-054.1	Sub-Station Accessories	45.67PBS.85-15	3000.00	300,000.00	13 week
16. Special Instructions	The Procuring Entity reserves the right to reject all Bids prior to acceptance				



Director (Procurement)
Rural Electrification Board
Head Office Building (7th floor), Nikunja-2,
Khilkhet, Dhaka-1229, Bangladesh.
Telephone: 8916420, 8916424-28/207, 134

DFP-27222-9/11/04

G-1100

Project Manager
Nalika-Bogra Gas
Transmission Pipeline Project
GTPR-18/04-5
GD-707

Gas Transmission Company Limited (GTCL)	
(A Company of Petrobangla)	
Nalika-Bogra Gas Transmission Pipeline Project	
House No-39, Road No-3, Sector-3 Uttara, Dhaka-1230, Bangladesh	