

Indian minister proposes Asian common market

AFP, Seoul
Indian Foreign Minister Natwar Singh on Thursday proposed an Asian common market encompassing India and East Asian countries, South Korean officials said.
The offer came at talks between Singh and South Korean President Roh Moo-Hyun.
Roh welcomed the proposal but said "further discussions are needed on its system and procedural mat-

ters," according to a statement from the president's office.
Roh has signalled his intention to boost trade to help South Korea's export-driven economy. Seoul agreed at the Asean plus three summit meeting in Laos in early December to pursue a free trade bloc with China, Japan and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.
Singh arrived Tuesday for a three-day visit which included talks on

measures to follow up on a summit agreement reached during Roh's visit to India in October.
On Thursday the Korea Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its Indian counterpart signed a preliminary agreement on expanding trade and investment.
Two-way trade volume reached 4.1 billion dollars in 2003. South Korea's investment in India exceeded 2.9 billion dollars at the end of 2003.



PHOTO: BGMEA
President of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers & Exporters Association (BGMEA) Anisul Huq speaks at the certificate awarding ceremony of the training course on "Improving Manufacturing Performance for the Garment Industry, Bangladesh" jointly organised by BGMEA and SouthAsia Enterprise Development Facility (SEDF) held in Dhaka Monday. Among others, Anil Sinha, general manager, and Geoffry Willis, consultant, of SEDF, were present.



PHOTO: BIA
Nasir A Choudhury, chairman of Bangladesh Insurance Association (BIA), addresses the 17th annual general meeting of the Association attended by chairmen and managing directors of the member companies in Dhaka Sunday. The newly elected members of the BIA Executive Committee for the year 2005-06 were introduced in the meeting.

Singapore jobless rate at 3-yr low

REUTERS, Singapore

Singapore's employment rose by 14,100 in the July to September quarter -- the strongest quarterly gain in three quarters -- but lower than an earlier estimate of 16,600 jobs, the Manpower Ministry said yesterday.
The second quarter saw total employment grow by 10,900 jobs, the ministry's third quarter labour market report showed.
Singapore's unemployment rate fell to 3.4 percent in September, its lowest in three years, as hotels and restaurants hired new workers.
But analysts said unemployment may rise again in 2005.
The jobless rate had been stuck at 4.5 percent since the end of December, when it fell from a 17-year high of 5.5 percent.



PHOTO: LOTUS-KAMAL
B O Suh, managing director of Daewoo International, Bangladesh, inaugurates the first showroom of Daewoo Electronics at Mallbagh, Dhaka Tuesday to launch the sales of its media and home appliances in Bangladesh. A H M Mustafa Kamal, chairman of Lotus-Kamal Group, sole distributor of Daewoo electronics in Bangladesh, was also present.

SMS business booms in China

AFP, Beijing

China's mobile phone users sent 176 billion short messages in the first 10 months of this year, according to figures released by the Ministry of Information Industry Thursday.
By the end of the year the number of text messages will exceed 220 billion, an increase of about 50 billion year-on-year, Xinhua news agency quoted the ministry as saying.
Calculated at a rate of 0.1 yuan (about 1.2 US cents) per text message, the business generated a total of 17.6 billion yuan (about 2.12 billion US dollars) by the end of October, said a ministry official.

Euro nears record high against dollar

AFP, London

The euro marched towards record high points against the dollar Thursday on news overnight that foreign investors had slowed their fund flows into the United States, as markets awaited US current account data.
The single European currency rose to 1.3417 dollars in early European trading, from 1.3393 late on Wednesday in New York.
The dollar stood at 104.19 yen compared with 104.20 on Wednesday.
The euro reached as high as 1.3443 dollars on Wednesday, near-

ing the record peak of 1.3469 achieved last week, after US government figures showed foreigners cut investment in long-term securities in the United States in October.
"The trend of dollar depreciation is firmly back in place after yesterday's dollar selling resulted in the euro rising to an intra-day high of 1.3443," Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi economist Derek Halpennysaid.
The dollar plunged after the US Treasury Department said that net foreign purchases from US residents of long-term securities -- including domestic and foreign-issued bonds and stocks -- slumped to 48.1 billion dollars in October from 67.5 billion

dollars in September.
The figures have raised renewed concern that the United States will find it difficult to cover its huge current account and budget deficits.
Markets were expected to closely study US current account figures for the third quarter, to be published later Thursday, especially in the wake of official data earlier in the week that revealed the US trade gap unexpectedly shot to a record 55.5 billion dollars in October.
"Another large current account deficit will be unsurprising, bringing the deficit close to 6.0 percent of gross domestic product," Callyon analyst Mitul Kotecha said.

Indian oil firm interested in Yukos assets

AFP, New Delhi

India's state-run Oil and Natural Gas Corp. said Thursday it is interested in bidding for some of the assets of stricken Russian oil giant Yukos, but not the whole company.
"If Yukos offers assets individually, we would be interested. We never proposed to bid for the company as a whole," Subir Raha, chairman of ONGC, said in comments broadcast on NDTV.
ONGC, India's sole oil and gas exploration firm, is believed to have held talks with Russian gas supplier Gazprom for a possible joint bid for a portion of Yukos' assets.
Russia is putting up for auction Yukos' main oil producing unit, Yuganskneftegaz, and has set a starting price tag of 8.65 billion dollars for the December 19 sale.

AirAsia confirms purchase of 40 Airbus jets

AFP, Kuala Lumpur

Malaysia budget carrier AirAsia announced Thursday that it will buy 40 A320 jets for 2.5 billion dollars from Europe's Airbus, which beat US aerospace giant Boeing in bidding for the contract.
AirAsia said in a statement to the stock exchange that it would sign a preliminary agreement with Airbus on Friday and would also agree to take options to acquire up to 40 more aircraft.
The order for the 40 jets would be valued at 5.2 billion dollars at the catalogue price, the Wall Street Journal said in a report on the negotiations last month, but AirAsia will pay less than half that amount after securing major discounts.

Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
BSEC Bhaban (8th & 9th Floor)
102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215
Bangladesh

Invitation for Tenders (First Stage Tenders)
Invitation No: IFT#RPGCL/KFP/02(R) Date: 14-12-2004

- The Government of Bangladesh has approved a project for construction of a NGL Fractionation Plant at Kailashilla for the extraction of Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG), Motor Spirit (MS) and High Speed Diesel (HSD) from Natural Gas Liquid (NGL) and Condensate.
- The Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Limited (RPGCL), a company of Petrobangla, under the Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources, Government of Bangladesh, now invites sealed tenders from eligible and qualified tenderers for the "Design, Procurement, Installation and Commissioning of 110 MTD capacity of a NGL Fractionation Plant, Storages, Metering and Loading Stations" at Kailashilla, Golapganj Thana, Sylhet Division, Bangladesh under turnkey EPC contract.
- Tendering will be conducted through an International Open Tendering (two stage) procedure, specified in the "Public Procurement Regulations 2003", and is open to all eligible and qualified tenderer from all countries except Israel.
- Eligible tenderers must have the following minimum qualifications to submit tender against this invitation:
 - An average turnover (defined as billing for works in progress and completed) over the last five years of US\$ 15,000,000.00 (fifteen million United States dollars) equivalent.
 - Experience as contractor in the execution of at least three international projects (outside of contractor's home country) of a nature and complexity comparable to the proposed contract out of which at least one project has to be completed within the last five years.
- Interested eligible tenderers may obtain further information from and inspect the tender document at the following office:
Kailashilla NGL Fractionation Plant Project
Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Limited
BSEC Bhaban (8th Floor), 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue
Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh.
Phone: 880-2-9128341, 9128353, Fax: 880-2-8113168.
- A pre-tender meeting shall be held at the office mentioned in paragraph 5 at 11:00 hrs (BST) on 18-01-2005. All interested tenderers are requested to attend the meeting.
- A complete set of tender document in English may be purchased by any interested eligible tenderer on submission of a written application to the address mentioned in paragraph 5 above and upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Tk. 5,000.00 (Taka five thousand only) or US\$ 90.00 (ninety United States dollars only) during office hours from 20-12-2004 to 22-02-2005. Tenderers who participated in the earlier tender against IFB # RPGCL/AF/02 dated 29-12-2003 for Ashuganj NGL Fractionation Plant Project will have to submit their tender again as per the terms and conditions of the new tender document. However, they may collect the new tender document free of cost.
- A two stage tendering procedure will be adopted and will proceed as follows
 - The first stage tender will consist of a technical tender only, without any reference to prices, and a list of any deviations to the technical and commercial conditions set forth in the tender document or any alternative technical solutions a tenderer wishes to offer, and a justification therefore, always provided that such deviations or alternative solutions do not change the basic objectives of the project. Following evaluation by the employer of the first stage tenders, the employer will invite responsive tenderer who meets the minimum acceptable qualification criteria and who has submitted a technically responsive first stage tender to a clarification meeting, during which the tenderer's tender will be reviewed and all required amendments, additions, deletions and other adjustments will be noted and recorded in the "Minutes of Tender Adjustments". In line with "Minutes of Tender Adjustments", the responsive first stage tenderer will be invited to submit a second stage tender.
 - The second stage tender will consist of (i) an updated technical tender incorporating all changes required by the employer as recorded in the "Minutes of Tender Adjustments" to the clarification meeting or as necessary to reflect any amendment to the tender document issued subsequent to submission of the first stage tender, and (ii) the commercial tender.
- First stage tender comprising of technical proposal only should be submitted to the Managing Director, Rupantarita Praktik Gas Company Limited, BSEC Bhaban (9th Floor), 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Kawran Bazar, Dhaka-1215, Bangladesh on or before 11:00 hours (BST) on 23-02-2005. Electronic tendering will not be permitted and late tenders will be rejected.
- First stage tenders will be opened in the presence of the tenderer's representatives (if any) at 11:30 hours (BST) on 23-02-2005 at the address mentioned in paragraph 5 above. If tenders cannot be opened on the scheduled date due to some unavoidable circumstances, the same shall be opened at the same time and place on the first subsequent working day. Second stage tenders will be opened in the presence of the tenderer's representatives who choose to attend at the time and date and at the address given in the letter of invitation to submit second stage tenders.
- All second stage tenders must be accompanied by a tender security in an amount of US\$ 250,000.00 (Two hundred fifty thousand United States dollars) or equivalent Bangladeshi taka in the form of Bank Guarantee issued by a schedule bank in Bangladesh in the form provided in the tender document.
- RPGCL reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

Project Manager
Kailashilla NGL Fractionation Plant Project
Phone: 880-2-9137318

Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd
(A Company of Petrobangla)
105, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215
Phone: 9563667-68, 9563670, 8112135-42, 8119210
FAX: 880-2-8113031
Email: titasgas@bdonline.com
Ref: 94.13/DCFP/HDD Date: 15-12-2004

Amendment Notice

Titas Gas Transmission and Distribution Co Ltd hereby extends bid submission deadline as set forth in the Invitation for Bids (IFB) for "turnkey contract for design-build and completion of 2 (two) numbers 16" (406.4 mm) diameter 140 psig submerged natural gas pipe line by Horizontal Directional Drilling (HDD) method across Turag river at Tongi and Aminbazar, Dhaka (length about 500 meters in each case) inclusive of supply of Fusion Bonded Epoxy (FBE) coated pipes, valves and miscellaneous fittings under Dhaka Clean Fuel Project (Ref. Dhaka Clean Fuel Project Date: 16-10-2004).

- Bid closing time and date is extended to 11:00 hrs of 10-01-2005.
- Bids will be opened at 11:30 hrs of 10-01-2005.
- Bid documents will be sold up to 09-01-2005.

Respective clauses of IFB and bid documents shall stand amended as above. All other terms and conditions shall remain unchanged.

বিনা প্রয়োজনে গ্যাসের চুলা জ্বলতে থাকবে জাতীয় সম্পদ বিনষ্ট হয়।

Deputy General Manager
Pipeline Construction Department
Titas Gas Transmission & Distribution Co Ltd
Titas/PR-80/2004-05
GD-795

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Civil Surgeon, Moulvibazar

Tender Notice

Groupwise separate sealed tenders are invited from this office enlisted contractor/supplier/manufacturer firms for purchase of MSR (medicine, gauze, bandage, cotton, surgical instruments linen items, chemical reagent, X-ray) items and steel & iron furniture, kitchen items and repair of MSR instruments for different health institutes under administrative. Control of the undersigned during 2004-2005 financial year. Tender in prescribed schedule should be submitted in tender box kept at this office by 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon of 26-12-2004. Tender box will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM by Tender Committee at the office chamber of the undersigned in presence (if any) of the attending tenderers. Tender schedule and terms & conditions can be collected by depositing Tk 400/= (four hundred) only (non-refundable) per schedule per group through treasury challan under Code No. 12713 0000 23166 at govt treasury (Sonali Bank Moulvibazar Branch) & submitting the original copy of the challan at this office during office hours up to 2:00 PM of 23-12-2004. No delivered after the prescribed time. This office may be contacted for detailed information.

Dr Afaz Uddin Ahmed
Civil Surgeon
Moulvibazar
DFP-29352-7/12
G-1267

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Magura
Memo No. 2128 Date: 23-11-04

Invitation for Tenders
Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

1. Procuring entity name	Magura PWD Division, Magura.
2. Invitation for	Works.
3. Date	23-11-04.
KEY INFORMATION	
4. Procurement Method	Open Tender Method (OTM).
5. Budget and source of funds	GOB.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION	
6. Tender No	02/(E/M)/2004-05.
7. Tender publication date	23-11-2004.
8. Tender last selling date	28-12-2004 Up to 4:00 PM.
9. Tender closing date and time	29-12-2004 Up to 12:00 Noon.
10. Tender opening date and time	29-12-2004 At 3:00 PM.
11. Name & address of the office(s)	
- Selling tender document (principal)	Magura PWD Division, Magura.
- Selling tender document (others)	Selected PWD Division under PWD Zone, Dhaka/Chittagong/Rajshahi/Barisal/Sylhet/and PWD Division, Magura/Jessore/Jhenidah/Narail/Faridpur/Rajbari/Kushtia/Chuadanga/Meherpur/Khulna-1/Khulna-2/Bagerhat/Sathkira under Khulna PWD Zone. Interested tenderer may view the documents in the offices for selling the tender document during normal office hours.
- Receiving tender document	Magura PWD Division, Magura. Deputy Commissioner, Magura. Superintendent of Police, Magura. Send by post (Registered with AD/courier services only to the office of undersigned on or before due date & time.
- Opening tender document	Magura PWD Division, Magura.
Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting	Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Magura. 27-12-2004 at 11:00 AM.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER	
12. Eligibility of tenderer	Contractors who have successfully completed the similar nature of electric sub-station installation work amounting more than Tk 15.00 (fifteen) lac in a single work order during past 5 years to issue date of this tender notice in government/semi-government/corporations/autonomous orgs. The certificate issued by the engineer not below the rank of Executive Engineer must be enclosed along with the tender. Otherwise the competent authority reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.
13. Brief description of works	Supplying & installation 3-Phase-X-former LT Switch gear, PFI in/c, H.T & L.T cable laying etc.
14. Name of work	Supplying & installation of 250 KVA sub-station equipment and E.I & fans in the Sub-Station Building at Magura DC's Court Campus, Magura.
15. Location	Collectorate building at Magura.
16. Price of tender document (Tk)	750/= Seven hundred fifty Tk (only).
17. Tender security amount (Tk)	60,000/= Sixty thousand Tk (only).
18. Completion time in months	3 (three) months.
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS	
19. Name of official inviting tender	Kazi Wahidul Iqbal.
20. Designation of official inviting tender	Executive Engineer.
Address of official inviting tender Magura PWD Division, Magura.	
Contact details of official inviting tender	
Telephone	0488-62505
Fax	0488-63005
e-mail	
The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject any or all tenders without assigning reason.	
DFP-28572-29/11/04 G-1189	Executive Engineer Magura PWD Division, Magura Phone: 0488-62505