

Star BUSINESS

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Experts for more effective global aid

4-day development aid confce kicks off in Hanoi

AFP, Hanoi

"Foreign aid budgets across the world are growing sharply, and as they grow, donors and partner countries, like Vietnam, are increasingly looking to measure progress, make good decisions based on reliable information and involve everyone in building the best strategies," he said.

The meeting aims to help countries develop national action planning processes and better collect statistics and allow public servants to use the latest information management systems.

Donor countries should not just measure their successes by "the number of kilometres of roads or the number of schools" they build, said Jeffrey Gutman, the World Bank's vice president of operations.

Rather they should focus on wider outcomes, such as "whether we actually get some results in terms of quality of education, in terms of changing economic opportunity by access to those roads," he said.

Host Vietnam has been praised for its poverty-eradication programmes, and has been chosen as a pilot country in which separate UN agencies will streamline their operations to work under a common leadership and budget.

The World Bank in Vietnam plans on Tuesday to announce that it will provide Vietnam with over four billion dollars in interest-free credit until 2011 to continue its poverty reduction and development efforts.

The Hanoi meeting is sponsored

by the Asian Development Bank, Inter-American Development Bank, African Development Bank, the OECD's Development Assistance Committee, United Nations Development Programme and the World Bank.

The conference, the Third International Roundtable on Managing For Development Results, follows similar meetings in the United States, Mexico and Morocco in recent years.

At a 2005 meeting in France, 60 donor countries and 60 aid recipients endorsed the Paris Declaration to increase aid harmonisation and accountability and improve the decision-making powers of countries receiving aid.



PHOTO: RANGS ELECTRONICS
Rangs Electronics Ltd opened a sales and service centre at sector 6 in Uttara, Dhaka recently. Deputy Managing Director of the company J Ekram Hussain inaugurated the centre while senior officials of the company, among others, were present.

CURRENCY

Following is Monday's (February 5, 2007) forex trading statement by Standard Chartered Bank.

Major currency exchange rates		Exchange rate of some currencies	
BC Sell	TT Buy	Per USD	BDT per Currency
US Dollar	69.40	58.15	
Euro	91.25	86.71	
Pound	137.93	132.28	Indian Rupee 43.97 1.56
Australian Dollar	55.07	51.32	PAK Rupee 60.74 1.13
Japanese Yen	0.59	0.56	Lankan Rupee 108.63 0.63
Swiss Franc	56.46	53.50	Thai Baht 35.84 1.92
Swedish Kroner	10.36	9.34	Malaysian Ringit 3.50 19.65
Canadian Dollar	59.56	56.93	
Hong Kong Dollar	8.91	8.71	USD forward rate against BDT
Singapore Dollar	46.25	44.26	
UAE Dirham	19.05	18.41	Buy Sell
Saudi Riyal	18.65	18.03	
Danish Krone	12.60	11.35	1M 68.25 69.52
Kuwaiti Dinar	236.66	234.11	2M 68.37 69.72
* All currencies are quoted against BDT			
* Rates may vary based on nature of transaction			

Local Market

FX: Local inter-bank FX market was subdued on Monday as the international markets opened for the week. The demand for USD remained stable, and the volume of cross transactions was more compared to yesterday. The USD remained unchanged against the Bangladeshi taka.

Money Market

Money market was active on Monday. Call money rate remained unchanged and ranged between 6.50-7.00 percent.

International Market

The yen hit a 1-1/2 week high against the euro and rose versus the dollar on

Monday as investors scaled back their bets against the Japanese currency before a weekend meeting of Group of Seven financial chiefs. The G7 meeting in Essen, Germany on Feb 9-10 is in the spotlight as European officials have been pushing for discussion of the yen's weakness, although their Japanese and US counterparts have played down the issue. The yen rose against the euro before trimming its gains, still up 0.4 percent on the day. The Japanese currency was also up 0.3 percent against the dollar. The euro was down 0.1 percent against the dollar.

SHIPPING

Chittagong Port

Berthing position and performance of vessels as on 5/2/2007

Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L. Port call	Local agent	Dt of arrival	Leaving	Import disch
J/1	Marine Queen	Gl(Copra)	Sing	Mutual	20/1	9/2	523
J/2	Zenovia	Wheat(P)	Novo	Mutual	19/1	8/2	1671
J/4	Shwe Thara Phu	Gl(Y Ma)	Yang	TCL	27/1	7/2	345
J/5	Hoang Son	Gl	Yang	Cia	30/1	8/2	367
J/6+5	Jin Ping	Gl(Y. Peas)	Vanc	Lilmand	14/1	5/2	890
J/7	Banga Borti	Cont	P.Kel	Baridh	31/1	6/2	245
J/8	Glaing Pescadores	Gl(St.C)	Yang	H&SI	3/2	6/2	2881
J/9	Yong Jiang	Gl	Titan	Cosco	29/1	9/2	1197

Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L. Port call	Local agent	Type of cargo	Loading ports
Golden Star	5/2	Busa	OII	Gl(St.C)	--
Jon Jin-2	6/2	Viza	Saraf	G.Slag	--
Ariella	6/2	Odessa	Pol	Wheat(P)	--
Shwezay Yar Aung	8/2	Yang	TCL	Gl(Y. Ma)	--
Maritime Songkhla	6/2	Tarj	BSL	C.Clink	--
Zhe Ha-315	6/2	P.Kel	PML	Cont	P.Kel
Kota Petani	6/2	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Mong
Kota Ria	7/2	Sing	Pil(Bd)	Cont	Sing
Phu Tan	6/2	Sing	PSSL	Cont	Sing
Csav California	8/2	Col	PSSL	Cont	LV/za
Mir Damad	7/2	Kol	BSCA	Cont	
Banga Biraj	7/2	Sing	Belsip	Cont	Sing
Gao Cheng	7/2	Sing	PML	Cont	Sing
Banglar Shikha	7/2	P.Kel	BSC	Cont	Sing
Mare Hibernum	8/2	P.Kel	Seacon	Cont	Sing

Tanker due

Perka	7/1	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD	--
Al Kuwailah	10/2	Kuwa	MSTPL	HSD/SKO	--

Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port	Local agent	Date of arrival

Outside port limit

Wira Keris	--	--	Ibsa	R/A(4/1)
Sea Drill-6	Pro. Equip	--	Ibsa	8/1
Gulf Drill-9	Pro. Equip	--	Ibsa	3/1
Pacific Champion	--	Vanc	Ibsa	R/A(204/2)
Hawaiian Star	Crude Oil	Rast	Dsl	5/2
Banglar Jyoti	C. Oil	--	Bsc	R/A(4/2)

Vessels at outer anchorage

Vessels ready

Yong Xing	Cont	Col	PSSL	29/1
OEL Freedom	Cont	Ptp	PSSL	31/1
Precious River	Cont	Sing	Vega	1/2
Xpress Resolve	Cont	Sing	Seacon	1/2
Xpress Manaslu	Cont	Col	Seacon	2/2
Cape Bonavista	Cont	P.Kel	Bdship	2/2
Josco View	Cont	P.Kel	RSL	3/2

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

STOCK



Bidyut Kumar Basu, head of Customer Management of Grameenphone Ltd, inaugurates a customer service centre of the company at Kamlapur Railway Station in Dhaka yesterday. Senior officials of the mobile phone operator, among others, were present at the opening ceremony.