

PHILIPS
sense and simplicity

DVD Player
It'll take anything you've got.
Turn up your experience
with extreme versatility.

DVP 3020

TRANSCOM
ELECTRONICS

8855366-8, 01712-665463

Star BUSINESS

E-mail: business@thedailystar.net

Havoline
GIVE YOUR CNG RUN VEHICLE THE VERY BEST...

Navana Petroleum Ltd.
Hotline: 8836419

Dollar dives to historic euro low

AFP, London

The ailing US dollar hit another record low versus the euro on Friday as the market fretted over gloomy US economic prospects ahead of a G7 finance meeting in Washington, dealers said.

In early European trade, the euro jumped to a record 1.4319 dollars, the highest level since the single currency's creation in 1999. It later stood at 1.4281 dollars.

The dollar's dwindling value has been thrown into the limelight ahead of the imminent gathering of Group of Seven (G7) finance ministers and central bank chiefs in Washington on Friday.

US Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson continues to voice confidence in a "strong dollar" -- but the currency's value has declined sharply in the past year.

Nervousness about the health of the global economy and the meet also pushed up the yen, which is often sold by speculators to fund risky "carry trade" investments in high-yielding assets, analysts said.

Indian inflation falls to five-year lows

AFP, New Delhi

India's inflation rate has edged further down around five-year lows, official data showed Friday, as food prices continued to fall.

Annual inflation slowed to 3.07 percent for the week ended October 6, compared to 3.26 percent in the previous week, according to the wholesale price index, India's most watched cost-of-living monitor.

The annual rate of inflation stood at 5.41 percent a year ago.

Prices of fruits and vegetables dropped, as did some manufactured goods.

Inflation has gradually dropped from two-year highs of nearly seven percent earlier this year.

Interest rates are at five-year highs and the Reserve Bank of India will review the figures at its next monetary policy committee meeting on October 30.

WTO's PROPOSED EIF FUND

Govt to submit proposals for 33 trade-related assistance projects

JASIM UDDIN KHAN

The government has decided to submit proposals for 33 trade-related technical assistance projects to get funds under the WTO's proposed Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF).

Dhaka will seek technical assistance for schemes such as design development for apparel industry and export diversification.

The decision to submit project proposals was taken recently at an inter-ministerial meeting held at the commerce ministry.

The 33 project proposals are among the 34 proposals prepared between 1998 and 2002 to get support under the World Trade Organisation's Integrated Framework (IF), an umbrella where multilateral donors promised to provide trade-related support for only least developed countries (LDCs).

Under the WTO's IF, only one

proposal of Bangladesh was approved. The country received US\$ 291,000 for a project on leather dyeing.

"As the donor assistance pattern has changed, recipient countries need to design projects as per donor guidelines. So, before submission the project proposals have to be redesigned," said a high official of the Economic Relations Division.

The IF was launched in October 1997 at the WTO high level meeting on integrated initiatives for LDCs' trade development as a follow-up of the Plan of Action in favour of the LDCs, which was adopted at the first WTO ministerial conference in Singapore in 1996.

IF's objective was to co-ordinate the existing trade-related capacity-building programmes of organisations such as IMF, UNCTAD, UNDP, the World Bank and the WTO to assist LDCs in

integrating their trade-related policies into their national development strategies.

After some evaluations on how to strengthen the IF's capacity to fulfill the objectives, the Development Committee of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) proposed to enhance the IF in September 2005. WTO members endorsed this recommendation at the Hong Kong Ministerial Conference in December 2005.

In June 2006, the Task Force on the Enhanced Integrated Framework (EIF) of donor and recipient country representatives submitted proposals for securing additional and predictable funding for the EIF. Strengthening in-country capacities to manage, implement and monitor the EIF process and improve the programme's governance.



Dutch-Bangla Bank Ltd (DBBL) has recently donated Tk 40 lakh for the construction of Shishu Sasthya Foundation Hospital. Managing Director of the bank Md Yeasin Ali and President of Shishu Sasthya Foundation Dr MR Khan, among others, were present at the donation handover ceremony. The bank will donate a total of Tk 1.2 crore for the construction work of the hospital.

Asia Pacific PC sales up 24pc in third quarter

AFP, Singapore

Sales of personal computers in the Asia Pacific region outside Japan rose 24 percent in the third quarter to September, compared with the same period a year ago, an industry report said.

Strong demand for notebook computers helped boost sales to 16.1 million units in the quarter, global research firm International Data Corp (IDC) said in a statement received late Thursday.

Compared with the second quarter, growth came in at 13 percent, it said, citing preliminary data.

The July-September figures were 5.0 percent higher than IDC's forecast, the statement said. "Portable PCs, particularly those sold through retail channels, continue to blowme away," said IDC analyst Bryan Ma.

"Even emerging markets that intuitively would gravitate towards lower priced desktop PCs have shown increased interest in notebooks. If things keep going at this pace, the region's portable PC shipments will likely reach the 20 million unit milestone for the year."

Pfizer net profit tumbles

AFP, New York

Pfizer said Thursday its third-quarter profit slipped 77 percent from a year ago to 761 million dollars amid a big writedown by the pharmaceutical giant linked to the withdrawal of its Exubera diabetes drug.

The world's biggest pharmaceutical group, maker of blockbuster drugs like Lipitor to lower cholesterol and the erectile dysfunction drug Viagra, said it took a charge of 2.8 billion dollars to exit Exubera, an inhaled insulin product.

But excluding one-time gains and losses, Pfizer said its profit amounted to 58 cents a share, which was six cents better than the average Wall Street forecast.

Revenues were also slightly better than expected at 11.99 billion dollars, a dip of two percent for the July-September quarter.

"We are encouraged by our operating results in the third quarter, and we remain on track" for 2007 revenue and profit goals, said Jeff Kinder, chairman and chief executive.

Platform to be floated next month to 'monitor' WB, IMF activities

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

A platform will be launched next month in Dhaka to 'monitor' suggestions and projects of the World Bank and IMF (International Monetary Fund), a dialogue was told yesterday.

The proposed platform will examine the two multilateral donor agencies' activities in the last 34 years in Bangladesh, economist Professor Anu Mohammad said.

"The platform will also hold public tribunals to try the World Bank and IMF for their wrong suggestions," added Anu Mohammad.

A similar platform was launched in India last month, he said, adding that there have been many such organisations comprising affected people, activists, and academicians in other parts of the world.

VOICE, an initiative for research and development, organised the dialogue titled 'How Bank and Fund Stand Against People:

Breaking the Cycle of Neo-liberal Hegemony' at the National Press Club in the capital.

Piash Karim of the Department of Economics and Social Sciences of BRAC University said the WB and IMF have provided the country with many suggestions regarding jute and sugar industries and the new platform will assess the impacts of the suggestions.

Speakers at the dialogue also criticised different suggestions including privatisation and market liberalisation of the financial institutions.

They said had Bangladesh exported its gas at the suggestions of the WB, the country would have faced acute energy crisis.

They also said implementing the suggestions of the donor agencies the country failed to utilise its full development potentials.

Ahmed Swapan Mahmud, executive director of VOICE, urged the government not to pay heed to all the suggestions of the WB and IMF.

China toy makers get training to ensure quality

ANN/ CHINA DAILY

The Chinese government has sponsored 14 training courses for toy makers on product quality and safety since August, sources at the Ministry of Commerce said on Friday.

The organizers of the courses included the Ministry of Commerce, General Administration of Quality Supervision, Inspection and Quarantine and related local authorities of Guangdong, Jiangsu and Anhui provinces. Trainees, numbering more than 2,600, came from 1,800-plus Chinese toy manufacturing enterprises, or one fifth of the country's total.

From October 11 to 12, the ministry and the general administration jointly held two training courses in Dongguan and Shenzhen, in southern China's Guangdong Province, as the Chinese government's latest efforts to improve toy makers' quality awareness.

EU unveils freight, cargo transport action plan

AFP, Brussels

The European Commission announced Thursday a vast action plan to ease international freight traffic in Europe, by opening up priority rail corridors and cutting red tape for ships moving between EU ports.

Experts predict that freight transport will increase by half in Europe by 2020 compared to 2000 levels, and Brussels has decided to take steps to streamline procedures so that the EU economy can better take advantage.

"Europe must place itself at the cutting edge of the logistical chain," EU Transport Commissioner Jacques Barrot told reporters in Brussels.

The idea is to create interna-

tional maritime and rail transport corridors dedicated to freight and cargo traffic, and see containers of harmonised sizes loaded smoothly, whether it be onto ships, trains or trucks.

The Commission hopes the measures, numbering around 30, would promote innovative technologies and practices, improve freight management, ease the building of freight transport chains and simplify administrative procedures.

For the sea, the EU's executive body wants to present a proposal for legislation in 2008 creating a "European Maritime Transport Space without Barriers".

It would cut down on the complex and time-consuming procedures -- document, health, veteri-

nary, customs and physical checks -- facing vessels that move between ports in two of the 27 EU nations.

The EU has some 1,200 ports along its estimated 100,000 kilometres (62,000 miles) of coast line, and these ports are all considered to be lying on the bloc's external border, meaning tougher checks are needed.

"Until now, we didn't have the means of ensuring that any boat in transit did not have contact with other ships from non-European countries, or if it had stopped at a port outside the EU," Barrot said.

"Today, with satellite positioning equipment, it's easier to follow them so there is no real reason to force them to undergo the same customs controls twice," he said.

US urges Japan to open markets further

AFP, Washington

The United States urged Japan Thursday to take further steps in opening and deregulating its markets, especially the medical, pharmaceutical and insurance sectors.

As part of an annual review of trade relations, the office of the US Trade Representative (USTR) submitted a list of items seen as priorities for improving bilateral ties.

"The United States is counting on Japan to remain firmly on the path toward greater economic reform and more open markets. This is a win-win proposition for both our countries," US Trade Representative Susan Schwab said in a statement in Washington as a meeting of the US-Japan Trade Forum was held in Tokyo.

"These tangible reform steps will help boost growth and opportunity by lowering costs, raising efficiency, and spurring new innovative products and services that will benefit all Japanese citizens."

Assistant US Trade

Representative Wendy Cutler presented the US recommendations, which include easing regulations for medical devices and pharmaceuticals as well as steps that help ensure fair competition in markets where the new Japan Post companies compete with private companies.

"The requests also urge Japan to improve customer convenience by carrying through with its planned full liberalization of the bank sales channel of insurance products," a USTR statement said.

In the medical sector, Washington urged an end to regulatory delays in the introduction of new devices and fair pricing for imported drugs.

The report contained a range of other reform recommendations spanning telecommunications, financial services and other sectors.

Japan for its part called on the United States to soften its demand that all US-bound container cargo should undergo anti-terror security checks.

US should not go to WTO over copyright breaches: China

AFP, Beijing

China's top piracy watchdog said Thursday the United States should not complain to the World Trade Organisation about Chinese copyright infringements, but added the move would not scare the Asian nation.

China has a legal system and other mechanisms in place to deal with such issues, but will go to the WTO if necessary, said Tian Lipu, head of the State Intellectual Property Bureau.

"We of course don't like the United States lodging complaints to the World Trade Organization," he told reporters at a briefing. "But we are not afraid of any resort to the WTO mechanism."

Tian also urged the US to take a more rational approach to intellectual property rights as more main-

land companies find themselves embroiled in rights disputes.

He added that the world should take developing countries' interests into account when addressing such issues.

Speaking to reporters, Tian said that China's intellectual property rights legal system will take some time to evolve, noting that Western concepts in the field took some time to mature.

"China's IPR legal system has only existed for 20 years," he said. "Britain took 300 years and America 200 years."

According to the Ministry of Commerce, the US International Trade Committee launched 12 cases against Chinese companies, worth a total of 1.66 billion dollars, in the first eight months of the year.

Bangladesh Power Development Board
Invitation for International Tender

1	Ministry/Division	Ministry of Power, Energy & Mineral Resources/Power Division.
2	Agency	Bangladesh Power Development Board (BPDB).
3	Procuring entity name	Director, Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
4	Procuring entity code	Not used at present.
5	Procuring entity district	Dhaka, Bangladesh.
6	Invitation for	Procurement of Spares for Unit No. 4,5&6 of Shahjibazar Power Station, BPDB, Hobiganj.
7	Invitation Ref. No.	Pur-332/2007.
8	Date	03.10.2007.
KEY INFORMATION		
9	Procurement method	Open tendering method.
FUNDING INFORMATION		
10	Budget and source of funds	Revenue Budget (cash foreign exchange allocation) of BPDB.
11	Development partners (if applicable)	Not applicable.
PARTICULAR INFORMATION		
12	Project/programme code (if applicable)	Not applicable.
13	Project/programme name (if applicable)	Not applicable.
14	Tender package No.	21 (FY 2006-2007).
15	Tender package name	Procurement of Spares for Unit No. 4,5&6 of Shahjibazar Power Station, BPDB, Hobiganj.
16	Tender publication date	03.10.2007.
17	Tender last selling date	18/11/2007 up to 5.00 pm.
18	Tender closing date and time	On 19-11-2007 at 11.00 am (BST).
19	Tender opening date and time	On 19-11-2007 at 11.30 am (BST).
20	Name & address of the office(s)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.
	Selling tender (principal)	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.
	Selling tender document (others)	Nil.
	Receiving tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.
	Opening tender document	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.
21	Place/date/time of pre-tender meeting (optional)	Nil.
INFORMATION FOR TENDERER		
22	Eligibility of tenderer	As per tender document.
23	Brief description of goods or works	Procurement of Spares for Unit No. 4,5&6 of Shahjibazar Power Station, BPDB, Hobiganj.
24	Brief description of related services	As per tender document.
25	Tender document price	Non-refundable BD Taka 2,000/- (two thousand) only in the form of Pay-Order in favour of Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, Dhaka.
	Lot No.	Identification of lot
26	1	Procurement of Spares for Unit No. 4, 5 & 6
	Location	Shahjibazar Power Station, BPDB, Hobiganj
	Tender security amount	USD 500.00 or BDT 35,000/-
	Completion time in weeks/months	90 days from L/C opening
27	N/A	N/A
PROCURING ENTITY DETAILS		
28	Name of official inviting tender	Md Abduhu Ruhullah.
29	Designation of official inviting tender	Director
30	Address of official inviting tender	Directorate of Purchase, BPDB, WAPDA Building (9th Floor), 12, Motiheel C/A, Dhaka.
31	Contact details of official inviting tender	Tel. 7126144 Fax 7126151
32	The procuring entity reserves the right to accept or reject all tenders.	

Md Abduhu Ruhullah
Director
Director of Purchase
BPDB, Dhaka

Biddiut/Jan-303 (4)/8-10-07
GD-3570

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বিজ্ঞান এবং তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা
নং-বিজ্ঞপত্র/শা-১২/মাঃউঃমাঃশিঃপ্রঃ/বিঃক্রঃ/অনুদান-১২০০৬/৭০ তারিখঃ ০৯-১০-২০০৭

বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিষয়ঃ ২০০৭-২০০৮ অর্থ বছরে বেসরকারি মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিজ্ঞান ক্লাবসমূহে অনুদানের জন্য আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান

বিজ্ঞান ভিত্তিক কার্যক্রমে আর্থিক অনুদান প্রদানের উদ্দেশ্যে দেশের বেসরকারি মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিজ্ঞান ক্লাবসমূহের কাছ থেকে নির্ধারিত ফরমে আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। প্রস্তাবিত অনুদান সর্বনিম্ন ১০,০০০/- টাকা এবং সর্বোচ্চ ৫০,০০০/- টাকা।

২। বেসরকারি মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিজ্ঞান ক্লাব বলতে বাংলাদেশের ভৌগোলিক সীমানায় বিজ্ঞান এবং তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি বিষয়ক কার্যবাহী পরিচালনা/বিজ্ঞান ও প্রযুক্তি উন্নয়নমূলক কাজ সম্পাদন/বিজ্ঞান বিষয়ক জার্নাল প্রকাশনা এবং সেমিনার/সিম্পোজিয়াম/কর্মশালা/প্রদর্শনী আয়োজনকারী বেসরকারি মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিজ্ঞান ক্লাবকে বুঝাবে। বেসরকারি মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিজ্ঞান ক্লাব বলতে কোন সরকারি মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান/বিজ্ঞান ক্লাবকে বুঝাবে না।

৩। নির্ধারিত আবেদন ফরম ও এতদসংক্রান্ত নীতিমালা বিজ্ঞান এবং তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়ের উপ-সচিব, রুম নং-৯১৯, ভবন-৬, বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০ অথবা পরিচালক, ব্যান্ডক, বিসিএসআইআর ক্যাম্পাস, মিরপুর রোড, ধানমন্ডি, ঢাকা এর কার্যালয় হতে সংগ্রহ করা যেতে পারে অথবা আবেদনকারীর ঠিকানায়ুক্ত অব্যবহৃত ৫.০০ টাকা মূল্যের ডাকটিকিটযুক্ত খাম উল্লেখিত ঠিকানায় ডাকযোগে প্রেরণপূর্বক সংগ্রহ করা যেতে পারে অথবা

Website addresses: (১) <http://www.bcc.net.bd> এবং (২) <http://www.mosict.gov.bd>

থেকে ডাউনলোড করে সংগ্রহ করা যেতে পারে। নির্ধারিত ছকে আবেদনপত্র যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে আবেদনকারীর সত্যায়িত ১ (এক) কপি ছবিসহ আগামী ১৫-১১-২০০৭ তারিখের মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর ঠিকানায় সরাসরি অথবা ডাকযোগে পৌঁছাতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পরে কোনো আবেদনপত্র গ্রহণ করা হবে না। নীতিমালার সাথে সঙ্গতি নয় এমন আবেদনপত্র অযোগ্য হিসেবে বিবেচিত হবে।

ড. মোঃ ফেরদৌস হোসেন
উপ-সচিব
বিজ্ঞান এবং তথ্য ও যোগাযোগ প্রযুক্তি মন্ত্রণালয়
ভবন-৬, দশম তলা, রুম-৯১৯
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা-১০০০
ফোনঃ ৯৫৫৯৯৩১

জিডি-৩৫৭৮