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Star BUSINESS

DHAKA MONDAY JANUARY 23, 2006 E-mail: business@thedailystar.net

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Global CEO of MTI Consulting due today

Hilmy Cader, global CEO of MTI Consulting, strategic business consultancy firm, arrives in Dhaka today on a short visit.

During his stay in Bangladesh, Cader, a Sri Lankan, is expected to meet business leaders, says a press release.

Cader's visit is aimed at introducing local businesses to MTI's globally acclaimed business solutions.

His visit will also coincide with a road show, organised by MTI Bangladesh for the benefit of local business leaders.

Bahrain-based MTI Consulting started its operations in Bangladesh in June 2005.

KSA invites Indian firms for gas exploration

PTI, New Delhi

As India prepares to receive the Saudi Monarch next week, the oil-rich Gulf country Saturday invited Indian companies to participate in gas exploration projects there.

"Indian oil companies can either participate alone or form Joint Ventures with Saudi companies to bid for gas exploration and refinery projects," Saudi Ambassador Saleh M. Al-Ghamdi told reporters here.

The invitation comes ahead of Saudi King Abdullah Bin Abdul Aziz's three-day visit to India from January 24. The King would also be the chief guest at this year's Republic Day celebrations.

Recognising the rapidly growing energy needs of India, Al-Ghamdi said his country was committed to uninterrupted supplies to the "friendly" country (India) irrespective of global price trend.

"We are committed to supply energy to India. We will continue to fulfil our commitments. This is our commitment to India," Al-Ghamdi said.

On the forthcoming visit of Saudi King, the first visit by a Saudi monarch in 51 years, he said the trip "reflects the growing political will to forge greater economic alliance between the two countries."

"India is an established industrialised country. We want to learn from its experience," Al-Ghamdi added.

Cellphone firms offer PCO packages 'flouting' licensing agreements

Land phone operators' assoc tells BTRC

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

All mobile phone operators are offering PCO (public Call Office) packages 'flouting' licensing agreements, the association of land phone operators has told the telecom regulator.

In a recent letter to Bangladesh Telecommunication Regulatory Commission (BTRC), the association said mobile phone operators cannot offer the fixed phone-style public call services.

"Traders are using the PCO packages on commercial basis in phone booths across the country and the land phone service providers are losing a substantial amount of revenue," said a top executive of a private land phone company.

Bangladesh Telecom Operators Association (BTOA), a platform of the 19 private operators of Public Switched Telecom Network (PSTN), handed over the letter to

the chairman of telecoms watchdog.

The association said mobile phone operators are also offering Fixed Wireless Terminal (FWT) allocated only to private PSTN operators.

Even some of the mobile phone operators are wooing public call booth traders through attractive advertisements, the BTOA said adding the 'cellphone operators are providing fixed phone services through the package using their mobile network'.

"Such violation of mobile licensing agreements has ruined the level playing field of the country's telecommunications sector and hindered the growth of the private PSTN operators," association told the BTRC urging it to take immediate action against such 'illegal business'.

"If the mobile operators can offer fixed phone-style services,

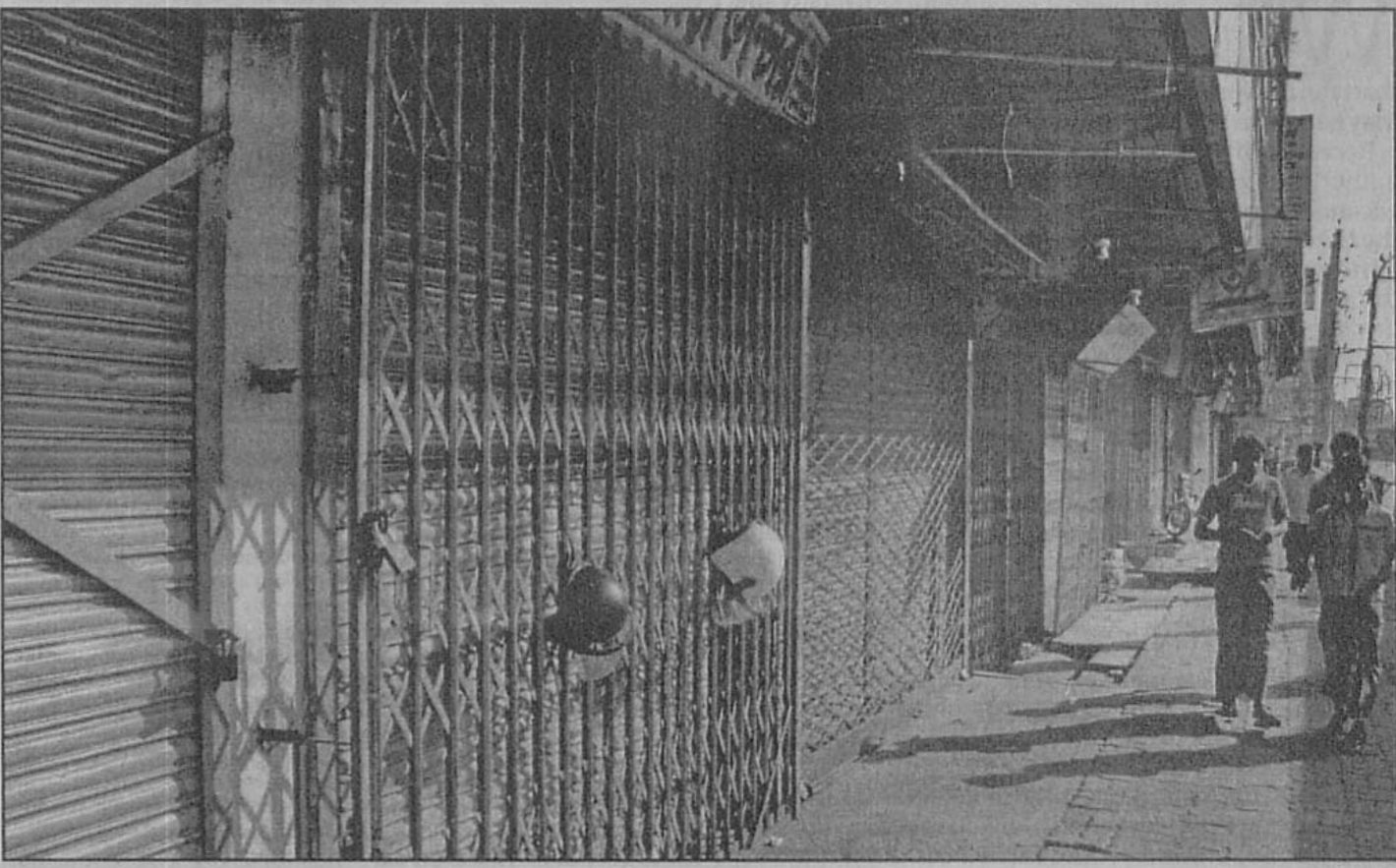
PSTN operators should also be allowed to offer mobile phone services," a top executive of a PSTN company argued.

Presently, all the mobile operators -- GrameenPhone, AKTel, Banglalink, CityCell and state-run Teletalk -- offer PCO packages to bulk users.

Asked, an official of GrameenPhone declined to comment and said: "We have not been informed by the BTRC."

Intekhab Mahmud, senior vice president (Sales & Marketing) of Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd, the owning company of CityCell, said the company has the right to give discount and offer a bundle package to its customers and PCO is such an offer.

The package does not have any relation with fixed phone, he added.



Pedestrians walk past shuttered shops on Bangabandhu Avenue in Dhaka yesterday during the countrywide general strike. The 14-party opposition alliance called the dawn to dusk strike demanding Chief Election Commissioner MA Aziz's immediate resignation and cancellation of two new election commissioners' appointments.

FLAWED DOCUMENTS, NEGATIVE PROFITABILITY SEC rejects 28 IPO plans in 18 months

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

The Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rejected 28 initial public offering (IPO) proposals during the last one and a half years as the companies submitted flawed documents.

Besides, failure to fulfill the commission's requirements, accumulated losses and negative profitability are the reasons behind the cancellation of IPO applications, sources said.

Of the rejected IPO applications, 21 were from insurance companies including 14 general insurance and seven from life insurance companies. The others include banks, non-banking financial institutions and a television channel.

During the 18 months from July 1, 2004 to December 31, 2005, the SEC received a total of 52 IPO applications from different companies, mostly from financial sector, seeking permission to raise funds from the capital market.

Of the total IPO proposals, the capital market watchdog allowed 18 companies to float primary shares while applications of six other companies are now under process.

During the period, only the IPO of the Premier Bank was cancelled

due to gross irregularities made by the bank management.

The capital market regulatory body earlier allowed the bank to raise Tk 55 crore from the capital market, the largest ever IPO in the financial sector.

Chinese capital sees GDP grow 11.1pc

AFP, Beijing

The economy in China's capital Beijing grew by 11.1 percent last year, partly due to a property market that is booming ahead of the city's hosting of the 2008 Olympic Games, it was announced Sunday.

Gross domestic product reached 681 billion yuan (85 billion dollars) in 2005, according to a statement issued by the Beijing Bureau of Statistics at a press conference.

Per capita GDP reached 44,969 yuan (5,457 dollars) last year, putting Beijing residents on par with counterparts in moderately developed countries such as Malaysia or Thailand, said Yu Xiuqin, deputy director of the bureau.

The commission rejected the IPO proposals of Computer Network Systems Ltd, Prime Islamic Life Insurance Ltd, Homeland Life Insurance Ltd, Continental Insurance Ltd, Islamic Commercial Insurance Ltd, Provati Insurance Ltd and ACI Formulation Ltd as the companies failed to fulfill the commission's requirements.

The SEC rejected the IPO applications of Islamic Insurance Bangladesh Ltd, Union Insurance Ltd, Standard Insurance Ltd and Crystal Insurance Ltd on grounds of accumulated losses. The proposal of Baira Life Insurance Co Ltd was rejected due to negative profitability and the proposal of Shahjalal Islamic Bank Limited was rejected due to weak fundamentals.

Besides, SEC cancelled IPO proposals of First Security Bank Limited, Golden Life Insurance Ltd, City General Insurance Ltd, Desh General Insurance Ltd, Meghna Insurance Co Ltd, Padma Islamic Life Insurance Ltd, Sunflower Life Insurance Co Ltd, Express Insurance Co Ltd, Sun Life Insurance Co Ltd, The Loyeds Insurance Co Ltd and Republic Insurance Co Ltd on grounds of non-fulfillment of requirements including validity expired audited accounts statements.

The regulatory body also rejected the IPO proposals of South Asia Insurance Ltd, International Television Channel Ltd and Bangladesh Finance and Investment Ltd due to non-submission of undertakings of two sponsor shareholders for CIB report, high premium and dishonouring the undertaking submitted to the SEC.

Companies have to submit all the required documents with updated financial statements to get consent for IPO floatation, said a senior official of the SEC.

Japan-Bangla IT show in April

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

With a view to introducing people to latest IT products, Japan-Bangladesh Group, a joint venture, will hold a three-day IT exposition in Dhaka from April 13.

Styled 'Japan-Bangladesh IT Expo 06', the exposition will be attended by 40 Japanese IT and telecommunications companies at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel.

Scheduled to conclude on April 15, the fair will remain open for from 9am to 8pm without any entry fee, officials of Japan-Bangladesh Group said at a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Fujitsu Corporation, Nihon System Design Corporation, Nagatsuka Teleindustry Corp, FES Corp, Net Technologies, Casio Calculator Ltd, Marco Technology, Nippon Comis Co Ltd are among some 40 companies that will showcase their products in the show.

"The fair will give Bangladesh people the opportunity to keep abreast of latest IT and telecommunications technologies," Salim Prodhan, chairman of Japan-Bangladesh Group, said.

He also said the show will offer 30 percent discount on purchase of IT products.

Altaf urges Lankan businesses to invest in Bangladesh

BDNEWS, Dhaka

Commerce Minister Altaf Hossain Choudhury has urged Sri Lankan businesspeople to invest in Bangladesh's diamond cutting and polishing, jewellery, agriculture, leather, banking and ICT sectors.

He made the call during the inauguration of a four-day Bangladesh single country trade fair in Sri Lanka on January 20.

"Bangladesh will welcome Sri Lanka if it comes up with investment proposals in prospective sectors," said the commerce minister.

Export Promotion Bureau (EPB) in collaboration with the Bangladesh High Commission in Colombo has organised the fair at the Sri Lanka Exhibition and Convention Centre.

Google tops Apple in 2005 brand poll

REUTERS, London

Internet search engine Google has retaken first place in the 2005 global poll of the world's most influential brands, while the eBay-owned web phone service Skype makes its debut at No. 3.

The annual survey compiled by online branding magazine brandchannel.com often throws up controversial results, such as in 2004, when Arabic TV station Al Jazeera was voted the world's fifth most influential brand (down to 25th place this year).

But this year, the 2,528 branding professionals and students who voted came up with more conventional and perhaps unsurprisingly for an online poll -- tech-heavy answers when asked "Which brand had the most impact on our lives in 2005?"

Google, the minimalist search engine which has expanded regionally and moved into new markets areas as its price comparison service Froogle, last topped the poll in 2003.

ইনস্টিটিউট অব এনার্জি টেকনোলজী
চট্টগ্রাম প্রকৌশল ও প্রযুক্তি বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়, চট্টগ্রাম - ৪৩৪৯.

পিএইচ.ডি/এম.এসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম.ফিল কোর্সে

ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইনস্টিটিউট অব এনার্জি টেকনোলজীতে ২০০৬-২০০৭ শিক্ষাবর্ষের বসন্তকালীন সেমিস্টারে পিএইচ.ডি/এম.এসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম.ফিল কোর্সে নিম্নলিখিত/নবকালীন ভর্তির জন্য নিম্নলিখিত শর্ত পূরণ সাপেক্ষে আত্মীয় প্রার্থীদের নিকট হইতে নির্ধারিত ফরমে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

ক) পিএইচ.ডি কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য প্রার্থীকে কোন বীকৃত বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অথবা সমতুল্য শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ স্তরে এম.এসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম.ফিল ডিগ্রীধারী হইতে হইবে।

খ) এম.এসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং/এম. ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য প্রার্থীকে সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় অথবা সমতুল্য শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান হইতে বি.এসসি ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং ডিগ্রীধারী হইতে হইবে।

গ) এম.ফিল কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য প্রকৌশল স্নাতক অথবা অর্থনীতি, ব্যবসা প্রশাসন ও বাবস্থাপনা, পদার্থ বিদ্যা অথবা রসায়ন বিদ্যায় স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রীধারী হইতে হইবে।

ঘ) কমপক্ষে ১ টি পাবলিক পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণী/বিভাগ থাকিতে হইবে।

ঙ) কোন পাবলিক পরীক্ষায় ৩য় শ্রেণী/বিভাগ গ্রহণযোগ্য নয়।

চ) সীমিত সংখ্যক নিয়মিত ছাত্র/ছাত্রীদের Teaching Assistantship/Research Assistantship /Fellowship দেওয়া যাইতে পারে।

ছ) চাকুরীর প্রার্থীকে নিয়োগকারী কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।

উক্ত বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রকাশের পর হইতে অফিস চলাকালীন সময়ে পরিচালক ইনস্টিটিউট অব এনার্জি টেকনোলজী বরাবরে সোনালী ব্যাংক সিইউইটি শাখা, চট্টগ্রাম এর অনুকূলে ৪০০/- (চার শত) টাকার পেমেন্ট/ব্যাংক ড্রাফট প্রদান পূর্বক একাডেমিক শাখা হইতে ভর্তি ফর্ম সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে এবং তাহা পূরণপূর্বক সকল প্রকার শিক্ষণীয় যোগ্যতার সনদপত্র ও নম্বরপত্র/প্রোলিফিক্ট-এর সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি, শেষ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধানের নিকট হইতে প্রাপ্ত প্রমাণপত্রের ফটোকপি, সত্যায়িত ২ কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ফটো সংযুক্ত করিয়া একই দপ্তরে সরাসরি বা ডাকযোগে আগামী ১৯/০২/২০০৬ইং তারিখের মধ্যে জমা দিতে হইবে এবং ২০/০২/২০০৬ ইং বিকাল ৩ঃ০০ ঘটিকায় সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ বিভাগ/কেন্দ্রের অফিসে সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য হাজির হইতে হইবে। ভর্তির নিমিত্তে ফুডস ফলাফল ২২/০২/২০০৬ইং তারিখ বিকাল ৩ঃ০০ টায় অত্র বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়ের নোটিশ বোর্ডে দেওয়া হইবে। ২৬/০২/২০০৬ইং তারিখের মধ্যে ভর্তি ও রেজিস্ট্রেশন করিতে হইবে।

প্রকৌশলী মোহাম্মদ নাসরুদ্দীন
সচিব

Mercedes-Benz sales in China grow 39pc in '05

AFP, Beijing

DaimlerChrysler-owned Mercedes-Benz sold 16,128 sedans in China last year, up 39 percent from the previous year, the state-run Xinhua news agency said Sunday.

Mercedes planned to invest 1.5 billion euros (1.8 billion US dollars) to produce cars in China, where a booming economy is creating a growing class of wealthy consumers, said Xinhua, which did not cite its source for the figures.

Career Opportunity

The Premier Bank Limited one of the most dynamic banks in the country is looking for some competent personnel who are ready to accept challenges in the following positions:

- FAMP/SEO/EO (for credit Card Division):**
- MBA/Masters in Marketing/Accounting/Management/Finance/Statistics/ Mathematics.
 - Should be able to act as wing in-charge (Recovery/Accounts/Marketing) of different wing in the Credit Card Division.
 - Minimum 5-7 years experience in the related field.

- Senior Officer/Officer/Junior Officer (for Credit Card Division):**
- MBA/Masters in any discipline.
 - 2-4 years experience in the related field will be preferred.

- IT Audit Specialist (for IT Division):**
- Masters in any discipline from reputed universities.
 - Must have 5 years experience at Bank or other Financial Institutions and Knowledge of conventional and Islamic Banking.
 - Will have good understanding of accounting, must be able to scrutinize purchase approvals, invoices, payments and IT Inventory.
 - Will be fully acquainted with the Central Bank's IT Audit guidelines.
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All incumbent should have good command in English, having good skills in computer MS Word, MS Excel, MS Access and no third division will be allowed.

Attractive compensation package will be offered to the deserving candidate.

If you are the right person please send your resume along with a recent passport size color photograph, contact phone numbers to the Human Resource Division. The Premier Bank Limited, Head Office at the following address within 31 January 2006.

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