

SANYO
FAMILY SIZE MICROWAVE OVEN
35.9 x 37.1 LITRE OVEN CAPACITY
Free Recipe Book
Transfin Trading Ltd.
Tel: 815306-9, 819625-9

The Daily Star BUSINESS

HYUNDAI
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

Tk 126 cr ROK
textile mill
likely

Nasim inaugurates internet service "Bangladesh Online" Govt firm to open up information technology at cheaper rate

By Staff Correspondent

Telecommunication Minister Mohammad Nasim yesterday said that the government was committed to open up the door of information technology at a cheaper price so that the mass people can be benefited.

"The whole world is progressing on the information super highway and Bangladesh can not be left behind. We have to build our own fate and act promptly," the Minister said.

He was inaugurating an internet service, "Bangladesh Online", of Proshika, a leading NGO of the country at its Mirpur central office.

He informed the audience that presently the government has a five-year contract with a single company for providing V-SAT, the technology which is required for operating the internet or online e-mail services.

"Because of this monopoly, the provider of this V-SAT technology is not performing satisfactorily. Therefore, we will go for breaking this monopoly," he added.

The Minister further pointed out that there were delays and bureaucratic bottlenecks in the T & T and the telecommunication ministry which needed to be removed in order to improve the quality of the telecommunication services.

"Competition between the T&T and the private companies can remove corruption or poor performance of services," he maintained. "This is why we will not allow any monopoly in this sector."

He praised the effort of Proshika for launching the Bangladesh Online at a very competitive price. It has also launched a home page in the internet rich in information on Bangladesh, updated news on politics, tourism and other issues.

The inauguration programme was also attended by State Minister for Information Abu Sayeed, former adviser of the caretaker government and computer expert Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury while Proshika Executive Director Qazi Faruque Ahmed presided. Proshika computer expert Zakaria Shawpan explained various aspects of Bangladesh Online.

The Bangladesh Online has, for the first time, introduced Bangla language in the online internet services and added the history of Bangladesh and personality directory in it. It has also added in its World Wide Web page an unofficial home page of Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina for the first time.

Dr Jamilur Reza said that although the internet service charges were cheaper in the

NMCP starts service in Chittagong

CHITTAGONG, Jan 30: Netherlands Management Co-operation Programmes (NMCP), a voluntary organisation financed by Foreign Ministry of the Netherlands government, has started its service in Chittagong, reports BSS.

This was told by a high official of the NMCP H Hulsinga when he paid a courtesy call on President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce and Industry (CCCI) Jafrul Islam Chowdhury MP at the latter's office here Wednesday, a chamber press release said.

Chamber President welcomed the NMCP official and briefed him about different activities of the research, documentation and training cell set up at the Chamber house by German Federation of Small Business and Crafts (ZDH).

CCCI President suggested Hulsinga to provide consultation facilities of NMCP in textile sector of the country.

Reciprocating the sentiment NMCP official informed him that NMCP which came into being in 1978 has expanded its activities in 64 countries including China, India, Sri Lanka, Nepal and Pakistan.

The service facilities of the NMCP included management, quality control, financial and personal policy marketing, technology, research and development, H Hulsinga told the meeting, the press release added.

Coming AGMs					
Company	Book Closure	AGM/EGM	Date	Venue & Time	Dividend Proposed
Chittagong Cement	01/03/97-20/03/97	AGM	20/03/97	Hotel Agrabad Ctg 10 am	18.2.97
Tripiti Ind./BD Zippin (Deb)	16/1/97-30/1/97	AGM	30/01/97	1R2(Pm & Tk 1000) 1R1 (Pm & Tk 125)	
China Inflation	27/01/97-03/02/97	AGM	03/02/97	Hotel Sonargang, 10 am	1R2(per par) 17.15
BOC Ltd	05/01/97-02/02/97	AGM	02/02/97	Sonargang Hotel 2 pm	185.30
Rahim Textile	16/01/97-30/01/97	EGM	30/01/97	Sonargang Hotel Centre 11 am	
Rupali Bank	05/02/97-02/03/97	AGM	02/03/97	Sonargang Hotel 3 pm	
National Tube	01/03/97-25/03/97	AGM	25/03/97	Factory Premises 11 am	182.15
Eastern Cables		AGM			18
BD Luggage (deb)	16/02/97-04/03/97	AGM			18.5
Bea Systems (deb)	16/02/97-28/02/97	AGM			18

PEREGRINE BANGLADESH INDEX

Thursday's market comment

The PBI gained for the 5th consecutive day as it added 0.65 per cent to close at 955 on heavy volume. Trading was bullish as 14 issues advanced over nine losers. Two issues remained unchanged. Olympic Industries was the top performer again Thursday as it surged 9.97 per cent on retail demand along with Monno Ceramic which gained 8.11 per cent. Square Pharma (+6.86%), Apex Tannery (+4.9%) and Beximco Pharma (+4.2%) also appreciated on heavy turnover. Apex Foods led the losers as it dropped 9.99% on low volume (60 shares) followed by ACI (-2.9%) and Beximco Textile (-2.13%). Chittagong Cement and Shine Pukur did not trade.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 30/01/97.

Selling	Buying		O.D. Sight	O.D. Export Bills	O.D. Transfer
	T.T. & B.C.	Clean			
US Dollar	42.6120	42.6650	42.3200	42.1541	42.0455
GB Pound	69.3303	69.4114	68.3108	68.0297	67.8513
D. Mark	26.0700	26.1005	25.6221	25.5167	25.4498
F. Franc	7.7309	7.7399	7.6000	7.5687	7.5489
J.P. Yen	0.3541	0.3546	0.3457	0.3443	0.3434
C. Dollar	31.8104	31.8476	31.2714	31.1427	31.0610
S. Franc	30.0597	30.0948	29.5405	29.4189	29.3418

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public:

	US DLR	GBP	S. RYIAL	UAE DH	KU DINAR
SELLING	42.6000	68.3303	11.5500	11.5500	140.0000
BUYING	42.0000	65.5803	11.0500	11.0500	134.5000

Indian traders urged to import more from Bangladesh

President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry ASM Quasem has urged the Indian businessmen to import more products from Bangladesh to narrow the existing trade gap, reports UNB.

The chamber leader made the appeal when a DCCI delegation visited the Indian State of Tripura from January 24-25 to take part in the Industrial Fair 1997, said a press release Wednesday.

Quasem pointed out that Bangladesh imported goods worth 688 million US dollars from India in 1995-96 fiscal while it exported products to India valued at 28 million US dollars.

He said the businessmen of Tripura can import goods from Bangladesh, considering lower transportation cost. He also laid emphasis on improving the trade relations between the two countries.

During the visit, the delegation, led by the DCCI President, called on Tripura Chief Minister Rasharath Dev, Commerce and Industries Minister Tapan Chakravarti and Cottage Industry Minister Ranjit Devnath, and discussed bilateral and investment issues.

A stall has been set up in the industrial fair in the name of DCCI and products from Bangladesh are being displayed there. The delegation returned home on January 25.



Ahsan Parvez, Finance Manager, DHL Bangladesh, along with DHL's Chief Financial Officer Bob Parker, Regional Finance Director, John Stewart, Regional HR Director Glenn Heidenreich and other finance managers of South Asia region attended DHL regional financial meeting in Singapore's Sentosa Island.

Minister tells Jatiya Sangsad 37,000 Bangladeshi workers deported from UAE, S Arabia

Nearly 37,000 Bangladeshi workers were deported from the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Saudi Arabia in recent years for their illegal stay there, parliament was informed yesterday, reports UNB.

Of the deportees, 25,710 Bangladeshi workers were sent from the UAE last year and 10,910 from Saudi Arabia since 1995 till now. State Minister for Labour and Manpower MA Mannan said, replying to Gazi Mohammad Shahjahan (BNP-Chittagong).

The state minister could not give the exact figure of Bangladeshi expatriates working legally in the two countries.

Govt to set up 12 more tech training centres

A BSS report says: The Minister of State for Labour and Manpower M A Mannan told the Jatiya Sangsad that the government was making frantic endeavours in finding jobs to the unemployed youths through imparting their necessary training.

Replying to a Private Member's resolution moved by Haji Mohammad Selim (AL-Dhaka) for setting up of a technical training centre at Kamrangir Char under Labagh thana, the State Minister said in addition to technical training institutions of the government, the Ministry of Labour and Manpower had been running 11 technical training centres in different parts of the country.

Mannan said that the government had also taken up a scheme to set up twelve more technical training centres including one for the women.

India intends to double number of taxpayers

NEW DELHI, Jan 30: In a country approaching one billion inhabitants, only 12 million people pay income tax, a figure the finance minister said Thursday he wants to double within three years, reports AP.

First, he's going after the rupee millionaires.

Only about 10,000 people report an income above a million rupees (28,000 dollars). "Clearly, something's wrong somewhere," said P Chidambaram. "There must be many more. I want to widen the tax base at the high end."

Poor tax collection is one of the issues Chidambaram said he must address to reduce India's fiscal deficit. It's most pressing economic problem. The deficit is now running at five per cent of gross domestic product.

In two to three years, he said, he wants to raise the number of taxpayers to at least 25 million. Even though that's only two per cent of the population, "that would be satisfactory," he told The Associated Press.

Chidambaram was preparing a pitch to foreign investors that he and Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda will deliver next week at the World Economic Forum in Davos, Switzerland, an annual gathering of government and business leaders. Davos is an increasingly important venue for international deal-making.

In advance of the meeting, Gowda's coalition government has taken a series of decisions this month, which it was compiling in a policy statement to be published later Thursday.

Shares steady in Hong Kong Stock Exchange

HONG KONG, Jan 30: Shares steadied on the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Thursday with buoyant banking and utility stocks offsetting profit-taking in a weak property sector, reports AP.

The blue-chip Hang Seng Index ended 2.97 points higher, or 0.02 per cent, at 13,288.40, following Wednesday's 117.86-point drop.

It's steady. It's being strongly supported at 13,200," said broker Rory MachAllister of HSBC James Capel Asia Ltd.

He said participants were buying bank shares ahead of expected good earnings reports due in March and signs that interest rates will remain unchanged next week when the US Federal Reserve's policy-making body meets.

Offsetting the gains was a weak property sector, said Desmond Cheung, a director at Vickers Ballas Hong Kong Ltd., attributing it to mortgage guidelines issued Tuesday by the Hong Kong Monetary Authority.

Banks were ordered to lower the mortgage ceiling for loans on luxury apartments. Analysts said the move was designed to damp property speculation.

Turnover dipped to 10,008 billion Hong Kong dollars, 283 billion dollars from 11,894 billion Hong Kong dollars (1,524 billion dollars) Wednesday.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port
Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 30-1-97

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port	Local Agent	Date of Leaving
J/1	Al Swamur	CI	Sing	ASLL	20/1 4/2
J/4	Banglar Shobha	Urea (G)	Marc	BSC	11/1 10/2
J/5	Petko R Slavejkov	R Seed	Col	AASS	11/1 3/2
J/6	Globe Trader	CI	Sing	Seacom	12/1 31/1
J/7	Fushiang Maru	Wheat (P)	Sing	AASS	10/1 5/2
J/8	Banglar Gourab	CI	Chib	BSC	R/A 30/1
J/9	Aditya Usha	CI	Malc	Prog	18/1 30/1
J/10	Mirna	CI	Sing	UMTL	14/1 3/2
J/11	Xuan Cheng	Urea (G)	UMMS	Litong	13/1 1/2
J/12	Ottental Yang	Cement	Vian	RML	10/1 30/1
J/13	Sea Elegance	Cont	Sing	PI (BD)	26/1 30/1
CCT/1	Express Trishul	Cont	Mong	Baridhi	29/1 31/1
CCT/2	Consistence	Cont	Sing	RSL	25/1 30/1
RM/14	Progress Excellence	Cement	Sing	Delmore	4/1 1/2
CGJ	Floating Mountain	C Clin	Yang	RML	28/1 3/2
RM/4	Shin Hung-2	GSSP (P)	Sing	RRSA	17/1 30/1
RM/6	Andria	HSD/JP-1	Sing	ECSL	28/1 30/1
DDJ	Banglar Jyoti	C/Oil	Idle	BSC	R/A 30/1
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/6 15/2
RM/8	Banglar Asha	Repair	Mong	BSC	23/1 3/2
RM/9	Banglar Moni	Repair	Mong	BSC	15/1 30/1
CUFLJ	Blue North	Cement	Qing	PSAL	3/6 31/1

Vessels Due at Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Last Port	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Emeral Venture	30/1	-	Simni	Scraping	-
Mighty Tide	30/1	-	B BaySurvey	Purpose	-
Banglade Robi 29/1	30/1	Mong	BSC	Cont	Sing
Fong Yun 19/1	30/1	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Tong He	29/1	Lang	Rainbow	Cement	-
Freesia 25/1	31/1	MCL	BDSHP	Cont	-
Hong Xiang	31/1	-	Seacom	Urea (G)	-
Bi Ryu Gang	7/1	Safa	Litmond	G R Phos (P)	-
Tong Tong Hwat	31/1	Sing	Karna	-	-
Padma 22/1	31/1	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Nei Jiang	1/2	-	BDSHP	CI	-
Kommunist	2/2	-	RRSAGI	(Rolled Coils)	-
Yang Tong	5/2	Ores	Litmond	Urea (G)	-
Fong Shin 20/1	2/2	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Da Fu 23/1	1/1	Sing	APL (B)	Cont	Sing
Gios	5/2	Mum	Cross	CI	-
Sea Pioneer	4/2	-	Oil	CI	-
Farrabi (E/L) 26/1	4/2	Mong	SSL	E/L	B Abbas
Banglar Mamata	8/2	Mong	BSC	GL	Latt UK
Veer Savarker (E/L) 28/1	5/2	-	SSL	E/L Ant Dundel	-
Susak 28/1	5/2	Col	Baridhi	Cont	Col
Meng Kiat 29/1	5/2	Col	BDSHP	Cont	Col
Siba	6/2	-	Rainbow	M Seed	-
Kota Bintang 28/1	6/2	Sing	PI (BD)	Cont	Sing
Stamford 28/1	6/2	Sing	RSL	Cont	Sing
Fong Lee 25/1	6/2	Sing	BDSHP	Cont	Sing
Kabardas (H) 26/1	2/2	Mad	SSL GI (Stee Coll)	-	-
Asian Harp (Roro) 24/25/1	9/2	-	BBA	Vehi	-
Meng Yang 29/1	7/2	-	AML	Cont	Sing

Tanker Due

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo
Entalina	31/1	Sing	ECSL
White Star	2/2	-	Seacom
Canopus	2/2	Sing	ECSL

Mongla Port
Berth Position and Performance of Vessels as on 30-1-97

Berth No	Name of Vessels	Cargo	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
MCF Jetty	M/V Fix Star	Clinker	Rk Int	12.19.97
A/2	M/V Banglar Mamata	Exp	BSC	25.19.97
M/3	M/V Canan Arichin	Cement	USTC	15.19.97
M/4	M/V Sagar	Ferti	Atlas	14.19.97
M/5	M/V Vega-1	Cement	Bright	22.19.97
M/6	M/V Banglar Jang	Clinker	Pioneer	25.19.97
M/7	M/V Banglar Mamata	Exp	BSC	25.19.97
M/8	M/V Hua Ting	Ferti	L Mond	19.19.97
A/7	M/V Evandros-K	Cement	Makh	20.19.97
A/8	M/V Faarabi	Exp	SSL	27.19.97
A/8 (A)	M/V Hong Gu Cheng	GSSP	BDSHP	23.1.97
A/10	M/V Mathios	Cement	Viking	7.1.97
A/12	M/V Saagar	Cement	Tania	3.1.97
A/13	M/V Forum Power	Cement	USTC	3.10.96
A/14	M/V Zaido Sarif	Salt	Dynamic	3.1.97
A/17	M/V Ada	Mop	OWSL	10.12.96
A/17 (A)	M/V Do Chuss	Cement	SSTL	29.1.97
A/18	M/V Gul in Yang	Clinker	R Bow	16.1.97
A/19	M/V Bravo	GSSP	R Bow	23.1.97
A/19 (A)	M/V Xiang Yang	Cement	S Path	27.1.97
A/20	M/V Alexandra	Exp	OWSL	20.10.96

Arrival Programme on 30.01.97:

Name of Vessels	Local Agent
A/18 (A) M/V Sea Master	Clinker
A/18 (A) M/V Sea Master	USL

The above are the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong & Mongla Ports as per berthing sheet of CPA & MPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

New sales centre of Rangs Electronics Ltd

Rangs Electronics Limited has established a new sales and service centre at Malek Plaza near Khilgaon rail gate here, reports UNB.

Managing Director of Rangs Electronics Akter Hossain inaugurated the multi-story centre yesterday. Directors of Rangs and local elites were present.

Rangs Electronics sells and gives service to electronic goods of Sony, Aiwa and Sharp companies, said a press release.

DHL Airways hub gets ISO certification

Cincinnati DHL Airways Inc. was awarded international quality registration for its United States airline and global hub located at the Greater Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport, says a press release.

By receiving the certification for the International Organization for Standardization category 9002, DHL becomes the first in the air express business to get the award simultaneously for its hub and airline operations.

Dhaka Sheraton offers Eid package

Dhaka Sheraton Hotel will offer a special Eid Holiday package to guests who will stay at the hotel during Eid holidays between February 1 and February 14, says a press release.

This special package titled "Eid Holiday Special" will enable guests to enjoy a very special discounted room rate including a range of facilities.

The rate is 60 US dollars single or double occupancy inclusive of government taxes and service charge.

The special offer will be valid from February 1 till February 14, 1997. Bangladeshis and Foreign Residents in Bangladesh can avail this special package.

Record number of companies offer right shares at high premium

By M. Shamsur Rahman

Period: Jan 1-Dec 31, 1995

Company Name	Bonus	Right		Dividend
		Ratio	Premium	
A/B Banks	1:6			
IFIC	1:10			
Islamic Bank	1:1		1,000.00	
NBL	7.5:100	1:3	100.00	200.00
UCBL	15:100			10.00
Aftab Automobile	1:10			
BD Lamps	1:1			
Singer Bangladesh	1:2			81.00
Amam Sea Food	1:5			
Shine Pukur		125:1	100.00	
Ashraf Textile	1:4	1:2	10.00	20.00
Beximco Pharma	1:4			40.00
ACI		2:5	120.00	130.00
Lexco		1:1	100.00	22.00
Reckitt & Colman	1:2			25.00
National Tea	1:10			10.00
Bata	1:5			30.00
Quasem Drycels		1:1	10.00	20.00
Raspiit Food	1:10			10.00
BLLC	1:5			25.00
GQ Ball	1:2	1:2	90.00	100.00
Apex Spinning	1:5			55.00

Period: Jan 1-Dec 31, 1996

Company Name	Bonus	Right		Dividend
		Ratio	Premium	
Atlas Bangladesh	1:4			50.00
Amam Sea Food	1:1			
Apex Foods Ltd	1:1	1:1	1,100.00	1,200.00
Square Pharma	1:4			
Apex Tannery		1:1	475.00	575.00
Monno Ceramic	1:2			
Chittagong Cement	1:2	1:2	1,000.00	1,100.00
Tripiti Industries				