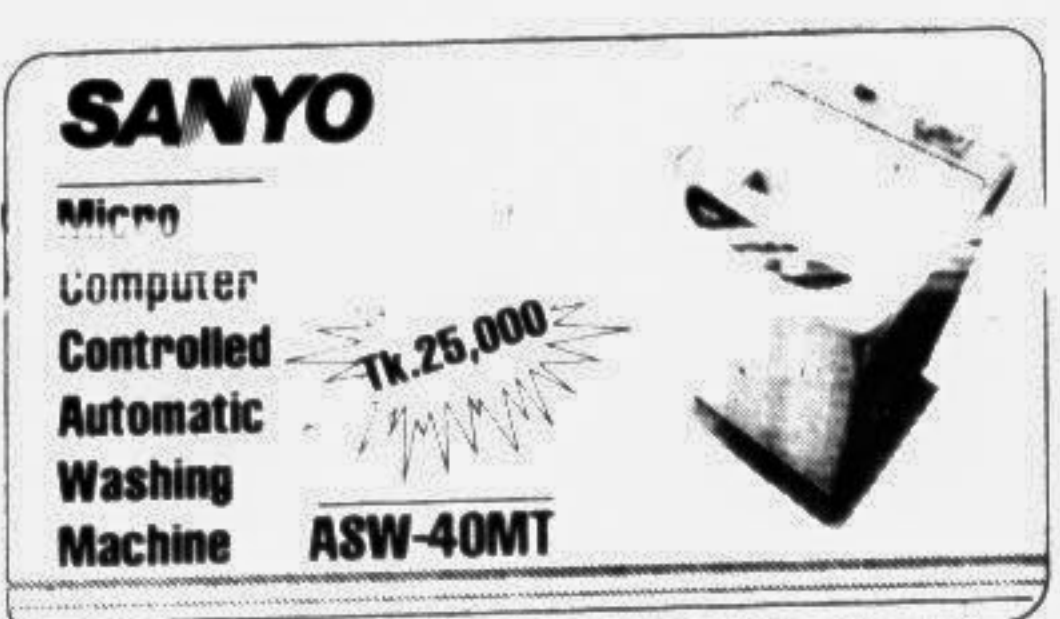


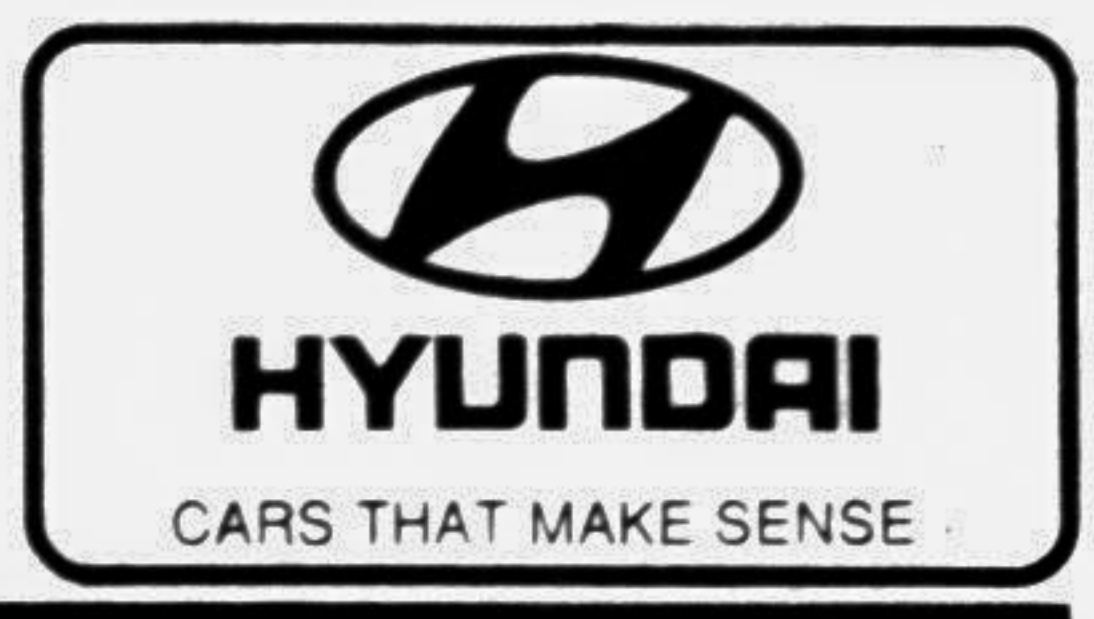
SANYO
Micro Computer Controlled Automatic Washing Machine ASW-40MT
Tk. 25,000



The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY, MARCH 6, 1997

HYUNDAI
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE



Ensure facilities to boost farm income in N-W region: Experts

By Govinda Shil, back from Bogra

Two leading foreign experts, and a number of senior government officials in Rajshahi Division strongly felt that farm income should be enhanced in the region by supporting cultivators and ensuring different facilities to them.

Talking to The Daily Star at the Rural Development Academy early this week, Bhanupol Horayangura, Resident Representative of the Asian Development Bank and Forrest Cookson, President of AmCham in Dhaka and team leader of the North West Area Development Study (NWADS) project said more yields will help the farmers to earn more.

The additional income will then be spent for farm and non-farm activities which will multiply economic activities and create new jobs.

The ADB Representative said unless farm income is raised, rural and national savings and

investments could not be raised. Bangladesh's savings rate was the lowest in the region, only 12 per cent, as against India's 25 per cent and China's 40 per cent.

Horayangura felt improved technology could be introduced in the farm sector. He said the government should put emphasis on the agriculture sector to raise its productivity and maximise surplus income of the rural people. In this regard, he suggested appropriate pricing of farm products.

During the current season it has been reported that farmers were not getting adequate profits due to low price of their products.

Forrest Cookson felt that credit facilities for farmers must be ensured.

"The credit system has broken down," Cookson said adding that the banks responsible for disbursement of rural

credit like RAKUB were not functioning well.

He said the government should not increase the procurement prices intervening the open market forces. "Rather it could procure foods for destitute, widows, and old-aged people," he said.

Cookson, who has been living here for the last ten years, said the farmers needed improved seeds and timely supply of fertiliser to raise their output. He also suggested diversification of agri-products which needs government support in the beginning. "The government should motivate the farmers to go for crop diversification to earn more," he observed.

For introducing modern technology in the farms, he suggested joint-venture agriculture and contract farming. Both Cookson and Horayangura felt training of (agricultural) manpower was a must for better

yield.

Rezwanul Haque, Commissioner of Rajshahi Division, felt that resuming the distribution of 'khas lands' among the landless farmers is necessary. "The Commissioner said efforts should be taken for the betterment of traditional blacksmiths, potters, carpenters, washermen, barbers and weavers, whose existence is now 'threatened'."

He also suggested using canals, ditches, ponds for pisciculture purposes. Haque felt that rehabilitation programmes should be taken for the patients who have leprosy, elephantiasis, goitre etc.

Other officials of Deputy Commissioner's office also said improvement of economic conditions of the rural people was a precondition for the development of the region.

Novartis Bangladesh starts operation

By Staff Correspondent

Novartis Bangladesh Limited, a merger of two leading Swiss companies — CibaGeigy and Sandoz, was formally launched in the country yesterday.

Addressing a press conference on this occasion at a local hotel the country representative of the new company, Gerhard G Doege, said that although the former two leading Swiss companies had merged into Novartis about three months back, it formally started operation in Bangladesh since yesterday.

He said the main objective of the merger was to improve skills and performance of the company.

Having a leading position in life science covering health-care, agri-business and nutrition, the company earned 28 billion US dollars in 1996 by selling its different innovative products, Doege said.

Sarwar Ahmed, head of crop protection sector, Sayemul Haq, head of animal health sector and Neil J Mathews, director finance, were also present at the conference.

UNB report says: Novartis officials said they have no immediate plan for expansion.

"For the time being, we have no need of further extension of our investment here", country manager Gerhard G Doege said.

He cited political instability, the matter of profitability, pricing for pharmaceutical products and heavy investment in China by the company as the reasons behind its decision not to go for new investment.

Before the merger, he said, both Ciba and Sandoz companies were the leaders in the markets they were operating in and Novartis represents the largest merger of its kind in the world that was completed in December last year.

Novartis (Bangladesh) is a public limited company with an equity participation of 60 per cent owned by Novartis AG, Basle, Switzerland and 40 per cent owned by government-owned Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC).

Ciba was in Bangladesh since 1973 with the same ownership as that of Novartis

(Bangladesh) Ltd. Sandoz has limited marketing operations in Dhaka since 1990 and prior to that Sandoz business in Bangladesh was through third party imports.

The turnover of the two companies grew by 10 per cent to Tk 110 crore in 1996 over the income of 1995 and the Novartis fixed a sales target of Tk 120 crore for the year 1997, Doege said.

The company has three factories in Bangladesh and ranks number one in crop protection industry, number seven in pharmaceutical industry and number two in animal health industry, he said.

As part of the merger goal to focus on life science, he said, the construction chemical unit (MBT) of Sandoz and Ciba Speciality Chemicals have been spun off into separate independent companies.

Doege said about 10,000 personnel or some 10 per cent of total workforce of the 28 billion US dollar company lost their jobs worldwide, but none in Bangladesh was included in that list.

Consumers protection act soon

The government will formulate a comprehensive, updated and complete consumers protection act soon to protect the rights of consumers, reports UNB.

Law Minister Abdul Matin Khasru said this at a seminar on 'Oil, Fat and Health' organised by Consumers Association of Bangladesh (CAB) here yesterday.

He, however, said that mere enactment of law is not enough, proper enforcement of the law is also important to protect the rights of the consumers.

The minister emphasised the need for creating awareness among the consumers of their rights through proper education. He said electronic and print media could play an important role in this regard.

He regretted that consumers are helpless at the hands of organised sellers and profiteers. CAB and other consumers association, through organised effort, could combat the powerful business community in protecting the consumers from being cheated regularly, he added.

The seminar was also addressed by CAB General Secretary Quazi Faruque, Prof Dr S M Keramat Ali and Dr Syed Rasheedul Hasan.



Gerhard G Doege (2nd-L), country manager of Novartis Bangladesh, addressing a press conference arranged at a city hotel yesterday on the occasion of launching of the company. Neil J Mathews (L), Director (Finance), Sarwar Ahmed, (2nd-R), head of crop protection and Sayemul Haq (R), head of animal health of the company, are also seen. — Star photo

Rural development gets top priority in ADB's future programme

The Asian Development Bank (ADB) will attach top most priority to rural development in its future programme for development of Bangladesh, reports BSS.

The bank's investment will go up in areas such as conservation of environment, eradication of poverty, small credit programme for self-employment of women, development of human resources and building of rural infrastructure to benefit vast number of people living in the countryside.

This was communicated to the minister for LGRD and Co-operatives Zillur Rahman by the visiting five-member high powered delegation from Bank's Manila headquarters, the members of the delegation called on the minister at his office Tuesday.

The ADB mission is now on a tour in Bangladesh to identify possible areas of investment in the countryside, an official handout said.

Zillur Rahman told the members of the delegation that the signing of water sharing agreement with India has

opened up vast potentials for socio-economic development in north-western districts. He said with the completion of Jamuna Bridge by the middle of next year, a congenial atmosphere will be created for foreign investment in agriculture, industry, commerce and rural development in northern districts.

The ADB can play an important role in rural areas by building socio-economic infrastructure for the people, he said.

The ADB delegation lauded the steps taken by the government for decentralisation of administration to speed rural development and bring qualitative improvement of the local government institutions and empowerment of the women.

They also opined that transparency and accountability in administration and establishment of good government in the structure of local government institutions would encourage foreign investment in the country, the handout added.

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IDB okays \$10m loan for REB

The Board of Executive Directors of Islamic Development Bank Tuesday approved a loan worth US dollar 10 million (approximately taka 42 crore) for Rural Electrification Board (REB) to provide electricity to the people in the rural areas of Gopalganj and Rajbari districts, reports BSS.

The following targets would be achieved after the implementation of this project in Gopalganj and Rajbari, said a press release.

Construction of 1010 km of new electric lines, renovation of 130 km of existing electric lines, installation of 4 nos. substation, and 17100 nos. consumers connection for household, irrigation and light rural industries.

Upgradation plan slows down CPA extends procurement time for FLT's

The Chittagong Port Authority (CPA) has, for the third time, extended procurement time for its fork lift truck (FLT's) till May this year after failing to take decision on upgrading its container handling capacity for over a year, according to Authority sources.

The CPA has been trying to procure five numbers of seven-ton, and 32-ton FLT's each as part of its upgradation plan to ease the congestion at the port since April last year, when the international shipping companies had imposed congestion surcharge.

CPA had also initiated private sector handling of containers and a private firm had also brought in four costly straddle carriers to ease the congestion. However, this private company could not operate because of opposition from the labour union, sources said.

The CPA in its last board meeting on December 4, had sent to the ministry a list of recommendations regarding the modernization process of the port. It had suggested that out of the prospective suppliers for FLT's, the offer by the Italian Fantuzzi company be considered as non-responsive because of adverse performance report from two overseas users.

It had also recommended that performance reports for other two prospective suppliers be collected.

The recommendations were then sent to the Shipping Ministry for its directives on December 24. The ministry after examining the CPA's recommendations, instructed the Authority to complete its evaluation as per rules and forward a specific decision to the ministry on an urgent basis.

Although this was approved by the minister on February 3, the same has been communicated to CPA on February 26 in spite of the urgency further delaying the process.

Meanwhile, two FLT's supplied by the Italian Fantuzzi had again developed faults in January in two vital areas — flow divider and transmission system — making them unusable since the authority did not have any inventory of the said parts.

CPA in an internal letter has expressed the concern that container handling operation at the Chittagong Port would be seriously hampered unless these two FLT's are repaired immediately.

The flow divider had been repaired temporarily, but CPA expects it go out of order at any time and has requested the supplier to replace it with a new one immediately on February 5.

Coming AGMs

| Company | Book Close | AGM/EGM | Date | Venue & Time | Dividend Proposed |
|-------------------|-------------------|---------|------------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Chittagong Cement | 01/03/97-20/03/97 | AGM | 20/03/97 | Hotel Agrabad Ctg 10 am | 182.20 |
| National Tube | 01/03/97-25/03/97 | AGM | 25/03/97 | Factory Premises 11 am | 182.15 |
| Eastern Cables | 01/03/97-25/03/97 | AGM | 25/03/97 | Factory Premises 11 am | 18.5 |
| BD Luggage (Pub) | 16/02/97-04/03/97 | AGM | (Half yearly interest) | | 10 |
| The Borena | 25/02/97-04/03/97 | AGM | 06/03/97 | Factory Premises Saitpur, Gazipur 10 AM | 12 |
| Flemek Lajpattar | Adopted AGM | AGM | 05/03/97 | BCC Auditorium, Dhaka 11 AM | - |
| Eastern Lubricant | 13/03/97-19/03/97 | AGM | 19/03/97 | | 35 |
| City Vegetable | 20/03/97-28/03/97 | AGM | 28/03/97 | | 3R1 (Pre: Tk 50) |
| Bengal Busco | 15/03/97-20/03/97 | AGM | 20/03/97 | Hotel Sonarganj, | 2R1 (Pre: Tk 150) |
| Alta Automobiles | 25/02/97-25/02/97 | AGM | 25/02/97 | | - |
| Sonney (Pub) | 25/02/97-10/03/97 | AGM | (Intend for 12th instalment) | | - |
| Umanisa Glass | 02/03/97-21/03/97 | AGM | 21/03/97 | Regi. Office 10:30 AM | 25 |

PEREGRINE BANGLADESH INDEX

Wednesday's market comment

The PBI gained more than two per cent on good volume to close at 784.7. Market sentiment was positive as the gainers outnumbered the losers by three to one. One issue remained unchanged, Beximco Synthetics and Shine Fuku, were amongst the notable winners of the day as they appreciated 9.2 per cent and 6.8 per cent respectively on retail demand. Padma Textile appreciated 3.7 per cent on strong local demand. ACI led the losers with a 3.7 per cent drop under institutional selling pressure followed by Chittagong Cement and Olympic Industries which shed 2.1 per cent and 1.7 per cent respectively under retail selling.

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 5.3.97

| Berth no | Name of vessels | Cargo | L port call | Local agent | Date of arrival | Leaving |
|----------|------------------|------------|-------------|-------------|-----------------|---------|
| J/2 | Mare | GI (Copro) | Sing | BSC | 19/2 | 8/3 |
| J/3 | Norbulk Namir | GI | Coch | CL | 23/2 | 6/3 |
| J/5 | Chelyabinsk | Cement | Sing | CNL | 26/1 | 8/3 |
| J/6 | Hemlock | Wheat (P) | Dar | | 19/2 | 9/3 |
| J/7 | Jin Jiang | GI | Sing | Prog | 23/2 | 10/3 |
| J/8 | Yi Yang | GI | Xing | Prog | 15/2 | 8/3 |
| J/9 | Banglar Doot | GI | Viza | BSC | 3/3 | 7/3 |
| J/10 | Bismahita-A | Wheat (P) | Argen | WSL | 22/2 | 12/3 |
| J/12 | Chang Ping | Urea(G) | Bank | Seasom | 20/2 | 8/3 |
| J/13 | Maritup | Wheat (P) | P. Kel | ASS | 19/2 | 10/3 |
| CCT/2 | DA FU | CCT | Sing | PI (B) | 2/3 | 6/3 |
| CCT/3 | QC Teal | Cont | Sing | BSC | 3/3 | 6/3 |
| RM/14 | Banglar Shobha | Repair | Marc | BSC | 11/1 | 11/3 |
| CCJ | Peng Ang Ling | C. Clink | Sing | PRC | 28/2 | 8/3 |
| GSJ | Anang Honour | Wheat(G) | South | RSA | 25/2 | 5/3 |
| DOJ | Banglar Robi | Wheat (G) | | BSC | R/A | - |
| DDJ/1 | Tanary Star | IDLE | Para | PSAL | 7/6 | - |
| RM/9 | Banglar Shourabh | Repair | | BSC | R/A | 10/3 |
| CUFJ | Blue North | Cement | Sing | PSAL | 3/6 | 15/3 |
| KAFCOUJ | Tradawn | Urea(G) | | Litmond | 16/2 | 12/3 |

Vessels due at outer anchorage

| Name of vessels | Date of arrival | L port call | Local agent | Cargo | Loading port |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|-------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|
| Fong Shin (Kron) 12/2 | 5/3 | Sing | BDShip | Cont | Sing |
| Banglar Karon | 5/3 | Kara | BSC | Rice (G)/GI | - |
| Elbe Stare 25/2 | 7/3 | Sing | BDShip | Cont | Cal |
| Al Salma (48) 22/2 | 7/3 | BOMB | Asil | GI | - |
| Meng Yang 19/2 | 6/3 | Sing | AML | Cont | Sing |
| Banglar Asha | 6/3 | Mong | BSC | Ballast | - |
| Banglar Urm | 6/3 | Mong | BSC | CL | Latt. |
| Kota Bintang 24/2 | 6/3 | Sing | PI (BD) | Cont | Sing |
| Fay | 6/3 | MUMB | ISA | GI(St. Colls) | - |
| Vanessa 26/2 | 7/3 | Sing | ISL | Cont | Sing |
| Freesia 24/2 | 7/3 | Mong | BD Ship | Cont | Col |
| Banglar Kaffol | 8/3 | Male | BSC | GI(Local) | Col |
| New Brooklyen | 8/3 | Kota | JF | Scrapping | - |
| Fong Yun 21/2 | 10/3 | Sing | BD Ship | Cont | Sing |
| Meng Kiat 20/2 | 8/3 | Sing | AML | Cont | Sing |
| Consistence 1/3 | 9/3 | Sing | RSL | Cont | Sing |
| Banglar Moni 24/2 | 9/3 | Sing | BSC | Cont | Mong |
| Susak 4/3 | 9/3 | COB | Baridhi | Cont | Col |
| Gregory Kovalchuk | 8/3 | Sing | BD Ship | GI | - |
| Steamers Future 24/2 | 10/3 | Mong | BD Ship | Cont | Col |
| Kota Pusaka 27/2 | 10/3 | Sing | PI (BD) | Cont | Sing |
| QC Pintail 1/3 | 10/3 | Sing | QCSL | Cont | Sing |
| Sea Master-1 | 10/3 | | Oil | GI | - |
| Padma 3/3 | 11/3 | Sing | RSL | Cont | Sing |
| Xing Ye-2/3 | 11/3 | | Rainbow | GI | - |
| Fong Lee-2/3 | 11/3 | Col | BD Ship | Cont | Col |
| Ocean Frize | 11/3 | P. Ling | Ancient | Wheat (G) | - |
| Albe Lieutenant (Roro) 24/2 | 27/2 | 13/3 | BBA | Vehi | - |
| Kota Berjaya 4/3 | 13/3 | Sing | PI (BD) | Cont | Sing |
| Emeral Venture | 15/3 | | Sinni | Scrapping | - |
| Rafflu | 15/3 | Adab | Litmond | Fert (Bag) | - |

The above were the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group Dhaka.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 05/03/97

| Name of Currency | T.T. & B.C. | | T.T. Clean | | O.D. Sight | | O.D. Transfer | |
|------------------|-------------|---------|------------|---------|------------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | US Dollar | 42.9120 | 42.9650 | 42.6200 | 42.4550 | 42.3438 | 68.1642 | 67.9855 |
| GB Pound | 69.4601 | 69.5408 | 68.4455 | 24.6157 | 24.5512 | | | |
| D. Mark | 25.1458 | 25.1749 | 24.7173 | 7.2994 | 7.2803 | | | |
| F. Franc | 7.3535 | 7.4621 | 7.3295 | 0.3462 | 0.3453 | | | |
| J.P. Yen | 31.5320 | 31.5686 | 31.0015 | 30.8740 | 30.7931 | | | |
| S. Franc | 28.9880 | 29.0316 | 28.5013 | 28.8422 | 28.3098 | | | |

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

| SELLING | US DLR | GBP | S RYIAL | UAE DH | KU DINAR |
|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|----------|
| 43.0000 | 68.2101 | 11.7000 | 11.6500 | 141.0000 | |
| 42.5000 | 66.2101 | 11.3500 | 11.1500 | 135.5000 | |

SITUATION VACANT

A Diplomatic Mission is soliciting applications for the position of Clerk Receptionist from Bangladeshi nationals for its Dhaka office. Applications must be received at Box # D-760, C/o The Daily Star, House-11, Road-3, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205 by Wednesday, March 12, 1997.

All applicants must meet the following conditions:

1. Excellent organisational skills, including ability to read, write and speak clearly and fluently in English.
2. Ability to deal with public.
3. Knowledge of basic computer skills would be an advantage.

D-272

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড
নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বাংলাদেশ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড-এর অধীনে প্রবেশনাল একাউন্ট্যান্ট দ্বারা পূরণযোগ্য নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদসমূহে সরাসরি নিয়োগের জন্য বাংলাদেশের নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছেঃ

| ক্রমিক নং | পদের নাম | পদ সংখ্যা | বেতন স্কেল | শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা |
|-----------|--|-----------|------------|---|
| ১। | অতিরিক্ত পরিচালক (হিসাব/অর্থ/অডিট/বানিঃপরিঃ) | ২টি | টাকা ৬৩০০- | ৩ বৎসরের হিসাব সংক্রান্ত অভিজ্ঞতাসহ এমসিএ/এসিএমএ। |
| ২। | উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব/অর্থ/অডিট/বানিঃপরিঃ) | ৯টি | টাকা ৪৮০০- | এমসিএ/এসিএমএ। |

শর্তাবলী:

- ক। নিয়োগপ্রাপ্তগণ বিধি মোতাবেক প্রাথমিকভাবে ১ (এক) বৎসরের জন্য প্রবেশে থাকিবেন। প্রবেশনাকালীন সময়ের কার্য ফলাফল ও সন্তোষজনক পুলিশ ডেভেলপমেন্টের পরীক্ষা প্রাপ্তিলাভের পর তাহাদের চাকরি স্থায়ীকরণ করা হইবে।
- খ। কম্পিউটারে প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীগণকে অগ্রাধিকার দেওয়া হইবে।
- গ। ২৭-০৩-১৯৭৬ তারিখে বয়সসীমা অনুর্ধ্ব ৪০ (চল্লিশ) বৎসর। বিশেষ শিক্ষাগতযোগ্যতা/অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বিভাগীয় প্রার্থীদের ক্ষেত্রে বয়সসীমা শিথিলযোগ্য।
- ঘ। দরখাস্তের নির্ধারিত ফরম কর্মচারী পরিদপ্তর, বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, ওয়াপদা ভবন, কক্ষ নং-৪০৬, ৫ম তলা, মতিবিল বা/এ, ঢাকা অথবা খুলনা, বাজারহাট এবং চট্টগ্রামে অবস্থিত বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের প্রধান প্রকৌশলীদের দপ্তরে পাওয়া যাইবে।
- ঙ। অগ্রাধিকার প্রার্থীদের পরিচালক, কর্মচারী পরিদপ্তর, বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকার বরাবরে ২৭-০৩-১৯৭৬ তারিখের মধ্যে আবেদনপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে। আবেদনপত্রের সঙ্গে (১) প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতার সনদপত্রের/প্রশংসাপত্রের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি, (২) আত্মীয় নন এইরূপ ২ জন প্রথম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড অফিসার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত ২টি চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র, (৩) নিজ জেলার স্থায়ী ঠিকানা উল্লেখপূর্বক সর্বশ্রেষ্ঠ ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ চেয়ারম্যান বা ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত জাতীয়তার সনদপত্র, (৪) সদ্যা তোলা ২ (দুই) কপি সত্যায়িত পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি, (৫) উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব), কোয়াক, বিউবো, ঢাকার অনুকূলে ইম্যুকৃত ৫০/- টাকার ফরম পোস্টাল অর্ডার, এবং (৬) নিজ ঠিকানা লিখিত ও ২ টাকার স্ট্যাম্পমুক্ত ২৫ সেঃ মিঃx ১১সেঃ মিঃ সাইজের একটি খাম দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- চ। চাকরিরত প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে। পরীক্ষার তারিখ যথাসময়ে জানাইয়া দেওয়া হইবে।
- ছ। যাহাদের প্রয়োজনীয় শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা নাই তাহাদের আবেদন করার প্রয়োজন নাই। অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র সরাসরি বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

পরিচালক
কর্মচারী পরিদপ্তর
বিদ্যুৎ/জন-১০৪৫(৩)১৬-১৭
ডি-২৭৩
বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ড, ঢাকা।

Meet on Asian economies opens today in Delhi

NEW DELHI, Mar 5: Nearly 400 government and business leaders will examine how to keep India and other major Asian economies on the path of economic reform at a conference beginning Thursday, reports AP.

The three-day meeting in New Delhi, occurring less than a week after the Indian government announced a pro-reform 1997-98 budget, will be an opportunity to examine the management of the Indian economy, said Shekhar Dutta, President of the Confederation of Indian Industries.

India broke from a socialist-patterned economy and embarked on a path of economic reforms in 1991.

The conference will bring together prime ministers, ministers and business leaders from India, Vietnam, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, the United States, Japan and Indonesia. Speakers include Indian Prime Minister H D Deve Gowda, Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet, former Australian Prime Minister Paul Keating, former US Trade Representative Carla Hills and former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

They will focus on prospects for infrastructure development, privatisation of public sector industries, financial sector liberalization and reform of labour and land laws in Asia, said a statement by the Asia Society, a conference sponsor.

UK, China reach accord on HK budget

HONG KONG, Mar 5: Britain and China today reached agreement on the 1997-98 budget for Hong Kong after two years of arduous talks, the radio and the Chinese news agency Xinhua reported, reports AFP.

Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule on July 1 after more than 156 years under the British flag.

Dhaka Sheraton
HAPPY 13TH ANNIVERSARY OF DHAKA SHERATON HOTEL



Dhaka Sheraton observed the 13th anniversary of the hotel and ITT operation in Bangladesh recently. San Amalan, General Manager together with the staff members of the hotel cut a cake to mark the occasion.

Export Promotion Bureau Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide reputed offset printing presses for printing of 20,000 (twenty thousand) copies of booklet titled "Raptani Nirdeshika" (Export Directory). Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the Reception Centre of the Bureau up to 12:00 Noon of 11/3/9