Health scare cited

Cola products

He said tests run by Coca-

Cola and an independent lab

found nothing wrong with other beverages in the same vending

machines. Additional test re-

came as Belgium was still reel-

ing from revelations that can-

cer-causing dioxin had entered

the food chain through animal feed in recent months. That led

the government to ban sales of

chicken, prok, beef, eggs and

Belgian VRT radio network that

the Coca-Cola ban will "remain

in effect until it becomes clear what the origin and nature of

the contamination are."

Vandenbossche said on the

Last week the Belgian

branch of Coca-Cola announced

a recall of 2.5 million bottles of

Coca-Cola after the 31

schoolchildren became ill after

drinking from Coca-Cola bot-

tles had a quality defect, which

can lead to symptoms such as

headaches, nausea and stomach

The soft-drink company

Coca-Cola has been active in

sent researchers to the school at

Bornem where students fell ill.

Belgium for 70 years. It has

large bottling operations in

Antwerp and Ghent.

Prize Distribution Cere

The company said some bot-

The sale ban for Coca-Cola

sults were pending.

meat products.

cramps.

An invitation To Morld Gu

AX Grindlays Bank

Muhammad A. Ali, General Manager and Country Head of

ANZ Grindlays Bank, hands over the grand prize of the

Member-get-Member Campaign of Cards Services of ANZ

Grindlays Bank to Brig. Shamsuddin Ahmed (Retd). Imran

Ahmed, Head of Cards is also seen in the picture.

BRUSSELS, June 15: Bel-

gium banned the sale of all bev-

erages of the Coca-Cola Co. fol-

lowing more hospitalisations of children who got sick after

Health Minister Luc Van-

denbossche urged Belgians not to drink Coca-Cola and such

Coca-Cola brands as Fanta.

Sprite, Aquarius and Bonaqua, On Monday, 40 students were

hospitalised in Lochristi in

west Belgium. Last week, 31 school children became nau-

seous in the town of Bornem af-

ter drinking Coca-Cola and

across Belgium have reported cases of illness after people drank Coca-Cola products. The

nature and cause were under in-

"We have been working and continue to work around the

clock to identify the reasons

behind the product complaints,"

Coca-Cola spokesman Robert

He said the incident appears to be isolated to Belgium, where whose who became ill reported

a foul odor on the outside of the

symptoms of nausea likely in-

duced by the off odor. There is

not evidence that the cans or

the product in the cans have

caused any ill effects." Baskin

"I think what we have are

Vandenbossche said doctors

were taken to the hospital.

vestigation.

Baskin said.

drinking Coke, reports AP.

# Free-wheeling hedge funds now under investor wrath

NEW YORK, June 12: Freewheeling global hedge funds that were blamed by govern-ments worldwide for the Asian financial crisis are now suffering the wrath of their shareholders, who are pulling back investments, citing the funds' poor performances and secretive ways, reports Reuter.

The two largest global "macro" hedge funds - the Quantum Fund run by George Soros and the Jaguar Fund led by Julian Robertson - have seen assets under management fall by almost a third to about \$13 billion from \$ 18 billion last summer, according to re-search firms that track hedge

Tiger's Jaguar fund saw assets decline from \$ 12.6 billion in August of 1998 to about \$8 billion currently, according to people familiar with the fund. Tiger currently manages about \$ 13 billion in total assets.

Hedge fund assets have shrunk partly due to losses on investments. Quantum is down 14 per cent in the first five months and Jaguar has lost eight per cent, said people who deal with the fund.

But investors are also pulling back, sometimes forcing these funds to make quick sales of investments to meet redemptions.

Occasionally, talk of selling by these large and powerful funds sparks a sell-off, as hap-pened briefly Friday in US Treasuries. The mere rumour of Tiger facing shareholder withdrawals triggered what traders said was a decline in US

government bonds. A spokesman for Tiger denied that there were large with-drawals and added that the fund "could pay out its redemptions fourfold.

Among large investors who have cut back investments in

Soros and Tiger is Haussmann Holdings NV, which manages \$3.5 billion for several wealthy individuals and institutions.

Haussmann recently cut its investment in Soros' flagship Quantum fund to 8 per cent of assets from 12 per cent at the end of 1998 and 20 per cent in 1997. It also sliced its investment with Robertson's Jaguar Fund to 5 per cent from 10 per

Haussmann, an offshore in-

vestments manager based on the island of Curacao in the southern Caribbean, pulled back as its clients demanded back some of their money, said Louis-Amedee de Moustier, chairman of the fund.

It also started to worry about the huge sums of money that hedge fund gurus like Soros and Robertson manage amid diminishing opportunities in global arbitrage.



Sethu Venkateshwaran, Chief Executive Bangladesh, Standard Chartered Bank, addresses the participants of a workshop on Indo-Bangla Trade Management at a city hotel on Monday. - Unitrend photo

#### StanChart workshop on Indo-Bangla trade held

Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh organised a daylong workshop on Indo-Bangla Trade Management for the executives of local banks on Monday, says a press release.

The workshop, at a city hotel, was inaugurated by Sethu Venkateswaran, Chief Executive Bangladesh of the bank and attended by 62 executives from 15 banks.

Sethu said in his address to the participants that the population of India and Bangladesh together was more than 20 per cent of the world population and it is a large market for bilateral trade.

He also noted that the workshop should help promote an effective understanding of one of the major trade partnerships of Bangladesh.

Mamun Rashid, Head of IBG and GSAM of Standard Chartered Bank, Bangladesh, said 16 cent of imports of Bangladesh comes from India while 2 per cent of exports from Bangladesh goes to India. He mentioned that trade processing through Standard Chartered Bank between two countries often takes a long time not due to any fault of the bank but because of the clearing process involved.

Sameer Sawhney and Karan Kalkat, Managers of Institutional Banking, Standard Chartered Bank, India, were guest speakers at the workshop.

#### Libya turns to Russia, China for transport shopping

TRIPOLI, June 15: Libya is sending delegations to Russia and China to discuss purchases aimed at rebuilding its transport infrastructure after the suspension of UN sanctions against it, the official JANA reported yesterday, reports AFP.

Libya wants to buy aircraft from Russia for its flag carrier. Libyan Arab Airlines, the agency said. Another delegation will go to

China where it will discuss

plans for building a railway.

## Rapid economic reform may not be enough Gabon unlikely to secure IMF

structural adjustment loan

LIBREVILLE, June 15: Oilrich Gabon is unlikely to secure a desperately needed IMF structural adjustment loan before the end of the year even if rapid progress is made on reforming the economy, economists in Libreville said,

reports Reuters. "Even under the most optimistic scenario, it's unlikely there could be a new deal before the end of this year", one said.

A three-year IMF deal expired in March after a fourmonth extension that allowed the programme to continue through presidential elections in December, which were won overwhelmingly by incumbent Omar Bongo.

But public finances have all but collapsed after a slump last

year in the price of oil, which accounts for over 80 per cent of exports. Gabon currently pumps around 330,000 barrels per day (bpd), down 30,000 bpd from 1998 and still falling.

The 1999 budget anticipated total receipts at just 550 billion CFA francs (\$877 million). compared with debt service obligations for this year, including 1998 arrears, which alone are almost double that.

Public services are visibly suffering with lizard-infested rubbish piling up in the streets of the capital, Libreville.

An official at the finance ministry estimated that the budget implied a shrinkage of 10-15 per cent in 1999 in the non-oil component of gross domestic product (GDP), al-

though the oil-related component could rise by some 10 per cent over last year if world oil prices do not fall further.

"Overall, there will probably be little change in GDP this year", he said. "The trouble is, as far as ordinary people are concerned it is the non-oil GDP that matters most.

He estimated that customs receipts were already down to around 10-12 billion CFA per month.

The new Finance Minister, Emile Doumba, who was appointed in January, has started cleaning up public finances.

For a start, many government employees who previously received salaries automatically in their bank accounts now have to pick them up in person.



over the grand prize to Brig Shamsuddin Ahmed (Retd), the winner of Member-Get-Member promotional campaign for credit cards run by the bank recently, says a press release of the bank.

The card services of ANZ recently held a "Member-Get-Member Campaign" with focus on Cricket World Cup 1999. The campaign was held

amongst the existing credit card-holders in order to encourage them to promote credit cards and win additional card members for the bank.

The grand prize of this contest - two return air tickets to London - was handed over to the winner by Muhammad A Ali, General Manager and Country Head of ANZ Grindlays Bank, at a simple ceremony held in the office of Card Ser-

#### Small businesses' Y2K glitches may hurt US

ANZ photo

economy

WASHINGTON, June 15: The inability of small businesses to handle year 2000 glitches and failures may impact the entire US economy, a Senate committee warned Monday, reports

"The nation's 14.5 million small businesses fulfill a crucial role in the country's economy, providing 51 per cent of the total private sector output," said Robert Bennett, chairman of the special committee investigating the impact of the millennium bug.

"Year 2000 failures in the small business community could be harmful and widespread," the Republican senator from Utah said in a statement.

Experts believe that some computer and electrical systems may malfunction because they will interpret the last two digits of the coming year as 1900 instead of 2000.

## **Exchange Rates** Belgium bans Coca

Currency		TT & OD		BC BC		T.T. Clean		Buying OD. Sight Export Bill		Buying OD Transfe		
US Dollar			48.6900		48.7100		48.310	48.3100		3.1570	48.0850	
Pound Stg		ean's see	78.62	8.6210		855	77.4119		77.1668		77.0514	
Deutsche Mark		k	26.36	28	26.3	845	25.3822		25.3019		25.2640	
Swiss Fra			31.989	98	32.0160		31,4785		31.3788		31.3319	
Japanese Yen		1	0.4065	5	0.4069		0.3994		0.3981		0.3975	
Dutch Guilder			23.39	75 23		167 22.5272			22.4558		22,4223	
Danish Kı			6.8953	THE RESERVE AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PERSON.		010 6.7311			6.7098		6.6998	
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Belgian F			1.2782			92	1,2306		1.2267		1.2249	
Canadian	\$	- 25-0-	33.71	-		415	32.7281		32.6245		32.5757	
French Fr	anc		7.8605	7.8605		69	7.5681		7.5441		7.5328	
Hong Kon	g\$	3	6.2944		6.2996		6.2153		6.1956		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	
Italian Lira			0.0266		0.0267		0.0258		0.0256		6.1863 0.0255	
Norway Kroner		er	6.2408		6.2459		6.1320		6.1126		6.1035	
Singapore \$			28.8105		28.8341		27.8862		27.7979		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN	
Saudi Rial			13.0298		13.0405		12.8453		12.8046		27.7563	
UAE Dirham		2 24 5	13.3044		13.3153		13.1170		13.0755		12.7855	
Swedish Krona		a I	5.7539		5.7586		5.6788		5.6608		13.0559	
Qatari Riyal		*25m/2	13.4224		13.4334		13.2306		13.1888		5.6523	
Kuwaiti Dinar		100	164.7954		164.9307		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN		152.0587		13.1689	
Thai Baht		-11000-000	1.3176		1.3186		1.3041		1.3000		151.8314	
Euro			51.561		51.0035		49.6434		49.4661		1.2900	
			v		_		g rates	)4	49	.4001	49.4121	
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		: ·		one,	Mor	nth	Months	Mont	he	9 Months	1 2	
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48.0850		.7300	GBF	-	5.12563 5.17297			5.3675 5.5875 5.20031 5.5875		5.75		
Cash/TC	_	sh/TC					2.62125			-	5.75	
					e Asia	n cu	rrencies	gainet	110	2.77781	2.835	
Indian Rupee Pak I		Pak R	upee	ee Thai Baht		Malaysia Ringgit				sian K	Korean Won	
43.27/43.29 51.80		51.80/	51,88	_			3.7995/3.8005		THE RESERVE OF THE PERSON NAMED IN		165.5/1166	

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative)

against the Taka to clients

Amex notes on Tuesday's market
The USD/BDT rates moved at the 48.65-48.68 level in the interbank market. The sale and supply of USD went up slightly. In the call money market, payment of T-bills worth BDT 477 crore pushed the

call rates above 11.5 per cent. The rates ranged between 9 per cent and 10.25 per The dollar stayed above 120 yen in late Tokyo trading on Tuesday, underpinned by fears of another round of dollar-buying intervention by the Bank of Japan (BOJ). But the dollar's rise was limited. It stood at 120.33/43 yen, virtually unchanged from

late Monday levels in Europe. The euro was easier in late Tokyo trading after staying above \$1.0410 for most of the day. The currency slipped to \$1.0390/94 by 0730 GMT compared with its New York close of \$1.0420/25. The euro dipped below \$1.04 for the first time in a

week on Tuesday amid disappointment at its failure to extend last week's rally and as the dollar rallied to one-week peaks against the Swiss franc. Sterling softened as the British retail price index came below expectations, undershooting government's 2.5 per cent inflation target. May RPI was up 0.2 per

cent month-on-month against a 0.4 per cent rise forecast. It was up 1.3 per cent year-on-year against expectations of a 1.4 per cent rise pound stood at \$1.6036/41 compared with \$1.6046/56 just before the data and \$1.6087/92 late in Europe on Monday. Euro/sterling stood at 64.74/82 pence versus 64.76/78 late on Monday. At 9.30 GMT, exchange rates of major currencies were GBP/USD 1.6028/31, USD/Yen 120.27/31; USD/CHF 1.5321/24; EUR/USD 1.0380/90.

### Shipping Intelligence

CHITTAGONG PORT Berth position and performance of vessels as of 15.6.99

No	Name of vessels		L port			fLeavin
J/2	Well Run	C Clink	CRAB	H&SL	31/5	16/6
J/3	Banglar Doot	Rice (P)	Pak	BSC	10/5	17/6
J/4	Sun Bright	· CI	Sing	Sea Glory	21/5	18/6
J/5	Trolanu	GI (BIT)	B ABB	CLA	R/A	20/6
J/6	Cardhu	GI CI	Sing	Everett	13/6	20/6
J/7	Aghios Nicolas	Wheat(P)	Turk	MSA	24/4	b 21/6
J/8	Zeynep Kaptanoglu	Wheat(P)	PSaid	OWSL	3/5	24/6
J/9	Hainan No.1	Sugar (G)	Sing	OWSL -	31/5	16/6
J/10	Sun-II	Wheat (P)	Turk	Rainbow	3/5	21/6
J/11	Tasmia	Urea	Uae	Nishan	8/5	24/6
J/12	QC Mallard	Cont	Sing	QCSL	8/6	16/6
J/13	Kota Cahaya	Cont	Sing	Pil (BD)	8/6	16/6
CCT/1	Achiever	Cont	Sing	RSL	4/6	16/6
CCT/3	Banga Birol	Cont	Sing	Bdship	8/6	18/6
RM/14	Humber	Cement	Jaka	Able	7/4	20/6
RM/15	Hyok Sin	Cement		USTC	R/A	22/6
ccn	Yonglly	C Clink	Jaka	PSAL	20/5	18/6
GSJ	Fivi	Wheat(G)	Duck	LSC	29/5	19/6
TSP	Qin Ling	R Phos	Nanj	Seacom	9/6	18/6
RM/3	Xing Ye	Rice (G)	2001	MHCSL	R/A	18/6
RM/6	Al Sabiyah.	Hs/Ms	Kuwa	MSTPL	14/6	16/6
DOJ	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	1945	BSC	R/A	15/6
DD	Al muztuba	Repair	3 n	CLA	R/A	24/6
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	*	
DDJ/2	Banglar Urmi	Repair	護:	BSC	R/A	25/6
RM/8	Unity	Idle	Mong	SSST	17/5	- 15/6
CUFL	Bao Ji Shan	Urea	Cal	ANCL	9/6	17/6
Kafco(U	) Rattana Naree	Rice(P)	Sing	GMBL	8/5	16/6
		s due at o	uter an	chorage		THE THE PERSON
Name o	of vessels	Date of arrival	L port	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port

	arrival	call	agent	28	por
Corali	17/6	Krabi	RML	C Clinke	
Shun An (48) 30/5	16/6	1 <b>-</b> 1	RML	GI(ST Co	il)
Bunga Mas Enam (Cont)6/6	16/6	P Kel	EOSL	Cont	Sing
Revenge	20/6		Sunshine	Salt	3
Jaya mars (Cont)8/6	17/6	Sing	Baridhi	Cont	Co
Tug Ocean Alpha	16/6	- 130 180	Karna	*	
State of Andrapradesh(E/L)	21/6	55	SSLL	E/L Ant I	Dundee
Kota Naga(Cont)6/6	18/6	Sing	Pil(BD)	Cont	Sing
Buxmoon (Cont)8/6	17/6	Sing	QCSL	Cont	Sing
Zoom Ocean	18/6	Sing	Able	Cement	DYRECTA EM
Leona	18/6	15 III	Prog	CI	:9
Banglar Robi(Cont)9/6	19/6	Sing	BSC	Cont	Sing
Dragon Kalimantan(Cont)9,	/6 18/6	Sing	Nol	cont	Sing
Mary Nour	18/6	: : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : : :	BSL	Cement	1200
Koushun (Noro/24) 9/6	19/6	Y ×	Everett	Veht	. 8
Star Glory	20/6	<del>#</del>	PSAL	Cement	韓
Green Ace(Rogo/24)27/2	20/6	Jaka	JF	Vehi	n n 3
Apl Violet (Cont)9/6	21/6	Sing	Nol	Cont	Sing
Edel Weiss	21/6		Prog	CI	3
Ovruch	25/6	ā	LSC	Wheat(G)	9
Banga Biraj(Cont)10/6	24/6	Sing	Bdship	Cont	Sing
QC Pintail (Cont)4/6	25/6	Sing	gcsl	Cont	Sing
	Tank	er due			
Stavanger Oak	16/6	Juba	ECSL	Hsd	
Pranedya Dwttya	16/6	Sing	CTPL	F Oil (RM)	(4) -
Samotlor	17/6	50000	TSL	CDSO	eomii e
Al Dhabiyyah	20/6	Juba	QCSL	HSD	
Aniva	17/6	Na:	Rainhow	Cno	- 70

Name of vessels	Cargo	L port	Local agent	Date of arrival
	Vessels at	Kutubdia		
Energy explorer-IV	*	# # The state of t	BBAL	5/4
Seabulk Command	5	4	IBS	R/A(6/6)
Romina-G	COil	RAST	ASTA	12/6
Banglar Shourabh	C.Oil	€ Granden	BSC	R/A
A A Venture	Survey	Mong	Cla	13/6
V	essels at out	er anchora	ge	
	Dood		ile de la companie de	

Ready on: BUTI Able Cement Pada Alpine Yang AMSL Shannon Sing Litmond Sugar Xpress Resolve(Cont) Sing RSL 11/6 Cont Sarah-1 - SMSL Rice (P) R/A (27/3) Karunia Lestari-II Kochi PSAL Rice(P) 22/5 Budi Teguh (Cont) Cont P Kel RSL 10/6 AL Baurag C Clink PSAL Puket 10/6 Da Fa (Cont) RSL Sing Cont 11/6 Sin Hai (Cont) 25/5 Cont Sing RSL USTC Ocean Prity Cement Tani 12/6 QC Teal (Cont) Sing QCSL Cont EOSL P Kel Bunga Mas Lima (Cont) Cont 13/6 Coral Hero (48) 13/6 Yang GI Everett Eliza (Cont) Col Baridhi 13/6 Cont 13/6 Kota Beriava (Cont) Sing Pil (BD) Cont Joy World (48) Jaka SSLL 13/6

Chongryongsan Rainbow 14/6 G Bang Kota Singa(Cont) Sing Pil)BD) Cont Vessels not entering Doha Sing Simni Scraping Tug Ocean East Sing OTBL Globe 19/3 Ballast Mong The above are shipping position and performance of vessels of

Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC

Cont

Cont

Sko

Sing

Sing

Mina

RSL

QCSL

MSTPL

14/6

14/6

14/6

Jaya Venus (Cont)

Ultima (Cont)

Amer Angergy

Group, Dhaka.

Oil consolidates last week's strong gains

LONDON, June 15: Oil prices stayed high yesterday consolidating last week's strong gains that were triggered by fresh optimism over OPEC measures to erase surplus stockpiles, reports Reuters.

Brent futures for August delivery settled just three cents lower in London at \$16.66 a barrel after jumping on Friday to within 40 cents of a peak this year for Brent of \$17.09.

Dealers said news that the Venezuelan government had settled a pay dispute with oil workers had prevented an immediate extension of the rally. Venezuelan oil unions called

off their nationwide strike call on Sunday after the govern-

#### IMCB consultants' meet held

A meeting of the leading consultants of the country was held recently at a local hotel. The meeting, organised by the Institute of Management Consultants Bangladesh [IMCB], was participated by more than a hundred consultants, says a press release.

M Saidul Haq MBA, President of IMCB, gave a presentation on the activities of IMCB and its commitment to develop professional standards of the consultants of the country.

The meeting was presided over by Prof Hafiz GA Siddiqi, Chairman of IMCB and Pro-Vice Chancellor of North South University Prof M Shamsul Haque, Dr A K Sayeedul Huq and A Karim were also present and delivered their speeches.

ment backed down on a decision to freeze oil sector wages in the world's third largest exporter.
Oil prices moved higher last week despite the impact of poor

refinery profit margins which previously had anchored the market at lower levels. Refiners in Europe and the United States have curtailed operations.

Nevertheless, analysts were convinced that the supply-demand picture was improving again after a demand lull which in May put a severe dent in the spring rally caused by OPEC's March announcement of stringent supply curbs.

They said that renewed imports by Asian buyers from West Africa and the North Sea would continue to support the oil market during June and

"Asian purchasing of Atlantic Basin crude continues and will be compounded by increased demand from both sides of the Atlantic and reduced supply from North Sea maintenance," said Washington's petroleum Finance in a monthly report.

Oil prices on Friday also were pushed up by news that a pipeline carrying gasoline and jet fuel had exploded in Washington State in the United States on Thursday. The blast cut off the north-

ern half of the Olympic Pipeline, the major carrier of refined fuels from Pacific Northwest refineries.

Also last week the International Energy Agency said OPEC's output curbs had started reducing world oil stockpiles.

## G8 summit trip to Europe this week Clinton to focus on child labour

attend a luncheon party hosted by FBCCI Monday afternoon.

WASHINGTON, June 15: US President Bill Clinton wants to put a "human face" on the global economy and address concerns about workers' rights, child labour and the poor during his G8 summit trip to Europe this week. White House official said yesterday, reports Reuters.

Clinton will condemn abusive child labour practices and discuss workers' rights in a speech to the International Labour Organisation in Geneva on Wednesday ahead of a meeting of leaders of the seven richest industrialised nations plus Russia in Germany, officials

said. Clinton's economic adviser Gene Sperling said the president would not only focus on the need for growth and economic stability in the world in his ILO speech and meetings with G8 leaders, but also on the impact

Mosharraf visits

Air Show '99

in Paris

Minister Engineer Mosharraf

Hossain, now in France, visited

the Air Show '99 held in Paris

The minister also met the

Bangladeshis expatriates living

in Paris, listened to their prob-

lems and assured them of all

possible government help to re-

Ambassador to France Syed

Moazzem Ali and President of

Paris unit of Awami League

Benzir Ahmed were present.

Among others. Bangladesh

Monday, reports UNB.

solve those.

Civil Aviation and Tourism

tices and is expected to vote on

Clinton will endorse a convention under consideration at the ILO that would ban the worst forms of child labour practices and abuse - slavery, prostitu-

adviser Gene Sperling.

over the last two years ... has fo-

cused on international eco-

nomic agenda, focused on pro-

moting open markets, promot-

ing global growth and stability.

while at the same time putting a

human face on the global econ-

omy," said Clinton economic

In his speech on Wednesday,

standards.

tion, pornography and work that exposes children to dangerous conditions. The ILO has been drafting a document to prohibit such prac-

the global economy has on the it soon. An estimated 250 milpoor and on the need for core lion children under 14 are used labour and environmental as cheap labour in developing countries, the ILO says. "The president particularly

Clinton will be the first US president to address the ILO in Geneva since its creation in 1919, Sperling said. He is expected also to talk about the need to address labour issues and about his proposal to create an arm of the organisation that would focus on core labour standards, he said. Sperling said the president included \$25 million in his budget proposal to help finance the proposal.

Malaysian Minister for Transport Dato Seri Dr Ling Liong Sik was warmly welcomed by the

General Manager of The Pan Pacific Sonargaon Hotel upon his arrival at the hotel to

Clinton has seen his trade agenda blocked by labour unions, a key Democratic support group, and hopes to ease some of their concerns about more open trade by raising workers' rights issues at international meetings. Labour unions have successfully fought Clinton's efforts to enhance trade negotiation authority from Congress. After meeting with French

-Sonargaon photo

President Jacques Chirac on Thursday, Clinton heads to Cologne. Germany, for a weekend meeting with the leaders of the Group of Seven rich industrial nations plus Russia. The meeting is expected to be

dominated by Yugoslavia and Kosovo and the peacekeeping role of NATO and Russia. But also high on the group's agenda will be proposals to expand debt relief for the world's poorest na-

"And there is a special targeting in our proposal now to ensure that the benefits from debt relief would be targeted to alleviating poverty, ensuring more children are surviving, and education in the poorest countries."



M Saidul Haq MBA, President, of the Institute of Management Consultants Bangladesh [IMCB], briefing on the mission and activities of IMCB at a consultants' meet held at a local hotel Saturday. Prof Hafiz G A Siddiqi, Chairman, Prof M Shamsul Haque, Treasurer and A Karim, Vice President of IMCB, are also seen in the picture. - IMCB photo