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DHAKA, FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1999

United computers comes up with new virus killer

A new anti-virus software, developed by local United Computers Limited, is capable of destroying any computer virus, reports UNB.

United Computers has innovated the anti-virus software named "Uni-V Protector" for maintaining longevity of personal computers, servers and documents.

The anti-virus software, developed after one year of research by the software development division of the computer firm, can kill any computer virus within a moment.

The viruses included the much-talked-about CIH that destroyed thousands of PCs across the world early this year, Clash, Cyberhack, July Killers, Happy New Year and Goldfish.

A release of the United Computers in city yesterday said the anti-virus software for six months would cost Tk 1,000 locally, while US dollars 25 abroad.

The updated version of the "Uni-V Protector", available on online, will be supplied after six months. Subscribers of the computer firms will get it free till August 10.

**Prime Bank holds managers' confce**

Half-yearly conference of the branch managers of Prime Bank Limited was held yesterday at its head office board room, says a press release.

The chairman of the Executive Committee of the Board was chief guest while Directors Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, Nasim Anwar Hossain, Md Shahadat Hossain and others attended.

Managing Director Kazi Abdul Mazid presided over the function. Naser Bukhtear Ahmed, Deputy Managing Director, and all the branch managers and executives of the Head Office participated in the conference. Nasim Anwar Hossain and other Directors of the Board spoke on the occasion.

In his inaugural speech the chief guest expressed his satisfaction over last six months' performance of the bank. He stressed the need for efforts to mobilize more resources towards maximisation of profit potentials. He called for creative banking to meet the demand of the time.

In his address of welcome, Kazi Abdul Mazid, Managing Director of the Bank, dwelt at length upon the half-year performance of the bank. He informed the Prime Bank had earned a half yearly operating profit of Tk. 13.58 crore, making 103 per cent growth over the same period last year.

He also informed that during the period the Bank's deposit grew by 24 per cent to Tk. 660.19 crore, advanced by 16 per cent to Tk 369.04 crore over December 1998.

**ASA disburses Tk 300cr loan in 6 months**

ASA, a non-government organisation, has disbursed Tk 300 crore as loan for poverty alleviation during the first of the current year, reports BSS.

This information was disclosed at the two-day half-yearly coordination meeting of the divisional and regional managers of ASA held in the IDB auditorium recently.

Savings from the members during this period increased by Tk 72 crore. Recovery rate of loan installments is almost 100 per cent, according to a press release of the organisation.

ASA has so far distributed about Tk 1,600 crore to nearly nine lakh landless members as a step to eradicate poverty.

Managing Director of the organisation Mohammad Shafiqul Haque Choudhury presided over the meeting. All the regional managers, divisional managers and high officials from the central office attended it.

It was resolved that Tk 400 crore more will be disbursed during the rest of the current year.

Choudhury called on the employees to serve the poverty-stricken people with such schemes that could meet their requirements.

**Uttara Bank signs deal for Reuters Money, Dealing Systems**

**Star Business Report**

Uttara Bank Limited has signed an agreement with Reuters for its money and dealing 2000-1 system.

The Managing Director of the Bank, M Aminuzzaman, and the Marketing Representative of Reuters in Bangladesh signed the deal in the city recently, says a press release.

The deal will bring the working system of the banks in line with the modern global banking system.

A H Giasuddin, General Manager of International Division and M Y Reza, Head of Treasury of the bank were present on the occasion.

The Bank will be able to furnish the corporate clients and interbank of all foreign exchange and money market dealings.

# State minister for planning says Y2K glitch unlikely to bug Bangladesh

Star Business Report

The Y2K problems were the results of the technological errors of developed countries, so they should shoulder the responsibility of addressing the issue, he added.

He said: "I hope the computers in Bangladesh including those of the Civil Aviation Authorities and telecommunications department will be problem-free when the next millennium begins."

With an air of optimism, Dr Alamgir said that the government had taken timely steps to

make people aware of the possible computer glitches in the upcoming millennium and direct them to buy Y2K-compliant computers.

Noor Uddin Khan said the Bangladesh government had already taken some steps to solve the problem.

President of BCS Aftab Ul Islam, US Charge d' Affairs in Bangladesh Theodore A Nist, AmCham President Forrest E Cookson and Vice Chancellor of AMA International University Carmen Lamagna addressed the inaugural session.

should take the leading role in addressing the problem which has the potentials to cost a lot," Noor Uddin said.

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Lankan trade and investment delegation held a discussion meeting with the Board of Directors and Members of the Bangladesh Chamber of Industries (BCI) at BCI board room Thursday. BCI Acting President AK Azad presided over the meeting.

—BCI photo



Kazi Abdul Mazid, Managing Director of Prime Bank Limited, speaks at the half-yearly managers' conference '99 of the bank at its Head Office yesterday. Directors Mizanur Rahman Bhuiyan, Md Sahadat Hossain, Nasim Anwar Hossain and other directors and executives are also seen in the picture.

—Prime Bank photo

## Move to end illegal phone service suffers setback

the unauthorised traders supported by political and business leaders are unleashing threats to stop the BTTB move of ensuring discipline.

They said policy makers at Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) are facing interference by political and business leaders not to go ahead with the move to ensure discipline in public telephone calling in private sector.

The Board is trying to introduce licensing system in private sector telecom business, but its officials are worried as the unauthorised traders engaged in influential quarters not to stop the illegal phone-fax service business.

The BTTB had asked all phone-fax business to be registered as public call centres by first week of August and continue the service in a legal way. But, BTTB officials said the illegal telecom traders didn't care the government ultimatum to procure licences.

According to official statistics, there are more than 4,000 illegal phone-fax traders in four telecom regions of the BTTB in Dhaka, Chittagong, Khulna and Rajshahi. But a very insignificant number of them applied for registration and licence.

However, a senior official of the BTTB said the actual number of phone-fax engaged in illegal business will be much higher. There might be many illegal centres out of notice as well as many not enlisted for their relations with unscrupulous BTTB employees, he said.

The official further said that

on July 19 and made many demands, including 40 per cent commission, 2-5 phones for ordinary and 10 phones for PABX operators and scheduling local call as 3 minutes before being registered with the BTTB.

Their association also demanded Tk 1-3 lakh soft loans for them, duty-free import of billing machines, cancelling royalty for fax machines being used in PCC, allowing its members to set up PABX without any charge and solving all problems through bilateral discussions.

But, the BTTB officials terming the association as illegal, one denied to realise the demands "as those are not justified". They have continued illegal business for years grabbing revenue of crores of taka and want to continue the illegal unauthorised business.

The business men held the conference at Jatiya Press Club

**IMF offers \$2.3b loan to Brazil**

WASHINGTON, July 29: The International Monetary Fund offered Brazil \$2.3 billion from its \$18 billion loan yesterday and said the government had exceeded expectations in curbing inflation and turning the economy around, says Reuters.

IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer praised Brazil's commitment to economic policies agreed with the IMF. He said the floating exchange rate had served Brazil well and he urged the government to step up structural reforms.

Directors expressed satisfaction that recent development in Brazil had been, on balance, significantly better than projected in ... March."

The BTTB asked the phone-fax operators and operating houses to legalise their business through registration after setting up spot billing machine that will show original due of a caller and make the establishment of a PCC like its public call office.

The Board, with a view to encouraging self-employment of unemployed youths, also invited fresh operators to take the opportunity of pay phone that will give printed copies of bills after the users make calls in the PCC, officials said.

In case of local calls, a 5-minute call or its part will be charged Tk 3 while the charges of NWD and ISD calls will be same as BTTB's. The operators will be able to charge extra 5 per cent commission for NWD and ISD phone calls.

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## Fiat planning to expand its Bangladesh market

Italian automaker Fiat is planning to expand its market in Bangladesh supplying cost-effective cars.

"We're exploring the idea of supplying Fiat Punto at a competitive price to Bangladesh as a substitute of used reconditioned cars," Rocco Basta, Regional Representative of Fiat, told UNB.

He said the company is now negotiating with Fiat Auto India over the possible cost of Fiat Punto likely to be made available in Bangladesh.

Rocco feels people would prefer to buy new cars at a comparatively cheaper price the driving used reconditioned cars.

The company's move to Bangladesh came close on the heels of Fiat's centennial celebration in the Italian city of

Turin. Fiat's primary market is around Europe but company now intends to boost production and sales in emerging markets of Asia, Eastern Europe and South America.

As part of the internationalisation campaign of Fiat's industrial and commercial operations, the company launched an industrial joint venture in China last month and set up Fiat Auto Egypt in Egypt.

With the new century knocking at the door, the Italian automakers displayed a new model named New Punto in Turin marking its centennial celebration.

The New Punto, a compact car under the label of the Punto, one of the most successful models of Fiat, will be marketed in Europe this fall.

Fiat started its centennial

celebration with a gala dinner and cultural show on July 11, which was hosted by honorary Chairman Gianni Agnelli, the grandson of Fiat's founder who guided the company through the turbulent years in the 1970s and 1980s.

Among the 3,000 guests were Italian President Carlo Azeglio Ciampi, Prime Minister Massimo D'Alema, former US secretary of State Henry Kissinger and representatives of European automakers.

The company's Chief Executive Officer Roberto Testore said: "Fiat's story is also the story of motor car in Italy."

While displaying the new model at a news conference at Lingotto auditorium in Turin last week, he said the New Punto is designed to meet the increasing demand of consumers.

BANGKOK, July 29: Asia should celebrate its economic miracle despite the financial crisis and must embrace globalisation and democracy to ensure sustainable growth, the World Bank's chief economic said today, reports AFP.

Joseph Stiglitz, Chairman of Bangladesh Jute Spinners Association, said: "The world has probably seen an economic miracle in Asia," he said.

As dramatic as the growth and development in East Asia was, so was the crisis. The economic contraction affected the lives of millions of people and aggravated social vulnerabilities in numerous ways," he said.

Stiglitz urged Asia's governments to continue sweeping changes to their financial infrastructure to avoid a similar crisis in the future.

Stiglitz said notwithstanding the devastating financial crisis which erupted two years ago, the "miracle was real and its legacies permanent."

He pointed to raised living standards, enhanced education and "dramatic increases in life expectancy" as the clearest examples that Asia's boom was more than an accident.

"It was not only that the re-

gions grew rapidly and that improvements in living standards ... matched the increases in income, but that the fruits of such growth were shared widely."

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