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# B The Daily Star BUSINESS

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## Canadian firm to modernise PDB load-dispatch centre

A Canadian power company will modernise the central load-dispatch centre (CLDC) of Power Development Board at Siddhirganj for smooth electricity supply, says UNB.

To this effect, PDB signed an agreement with Hydro Quebec International for technology transfer and training of local engineers to upgrade the overall load management.

Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) will provide 277,000 Canadian dollars equivalent to Tk 180 million for the work.

The project, when completed, will bring 18 grid substations under the Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition Centre (SCADA), making grid management easier.

CIDA in 1986 financed installation of the Siddhirganj LDC, considered the heart of the country's power generation, transmission and distribution systems.

PDB Chairman Quamrul Islam Siddique and senior officials of the Board witnessed the signing of agreement by PDB director (purchase) and Hydro Quebec director on their respective behalf.

## IPDC strikes loan deal with DEG

Industrial Promotion and Development Company of Bangladesh Limited (IPDC) and German Investment Company (DEG) signed a loan agreement at IPDC office on Thursday for a credit line of Euro 5,000,000.

The DEG credit line will be utilised for the onward lending of IPDC-financed projects, says a press release.

Meanwhile, the IPDC Board of Directors has approved Tk 126 million and 0.40 million US dollars industrial investment.

The approval was given at the 63rd meeting of the Board held in the city on September 15.

Industries Secretary, Ejazul Huq, presided over meeting.

IPDC's directors and alternates from the government, German Investment and Development Company (DEG), Commonwealth Development Corporation (CDC), Aga Khan Fund for Economic Development (AKFED) and International Finance Corporation (IFC) attended the meeting, says a press release.

Scancem seminar on technology in cement industry held

Scancem Bangladesh Ltd recently held a seminar on 'Modern Technologies in the Cement Industry' and Scancem Bangladesh Ltd at the PWD auditorium at Shegunbagicha in the city, says a press release.

The seminar focused on the modern cement technology and its application in the construction of industries, the pre-requisites for quality cement, testing methods and activities of Scancem Bangladesh Ltd.

Around 250 PWD engineers from different parts of the country participated in the seminar.

Chief Engineer A K M Mukit Rahman of the Public Works Department (PWD) spoke as the chief guest in the seminar. As a guest speaker, Prof Shamim Z Bosunia of BUET discussed about cement testing and its importance.

The speakers from ScanCem were Christer Eriksson, Marketing & Sales Manager, Ashraful Amin Badal, Project Manager (Coordination), Momenul Islam, Project Manager (Development), and Sales Executive Kamrul Hasan. The seminar was chaired by Additional Chief Engineer Mosheduddin.

Scancem Bangladesh Ltd, a member of the globally-renowned Scancem Group, has been marketing Scancem in Dhaka, Chittagong and some other parts of Bangladesh for the last one year. The company has already taken up steps for setting up a grinding plant at Kanchpur near Dhaka. The factory will start production by the end of March 2001.

## Int'l Confce on Computer and IT begins at BUET

# Scientists seek govt assistance for boosting software industry

As a two-day International Conference on Computer and Information Technology (ICCT) began at the BUET in the city yesterday, scientists sought cooperation from the government in flourishing the country's software industry, reports UNB.

Our software industry, which is now at an early stage, will not flourish without help from the public sector. Domestic software developers must be provided with some protection, Prof Jamilur Reza Chowdhury echoed others.

Addressing the inaugural session of the conference focused on research work in the IT field, the former Advisor of the Caretaker Government also emphasised global connectivity

for a rapid boost to the prospective information-technology sector.

As Bangladesh is now connected through V-SAT, he reiterated that the country should be linked with the submarine cable immediately. In this regard, he mentioned that all rail stations in the country could be used as kiosks, as the railway has optic-fibre connection.

Inaugurating the international conference, mainly of the scientists, Vice Chancellor of the Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology Prof Nooruddin Ahmed laid emphasis on skilled manpower for fostering IT sector in the country.

Different universities in the country have introduced com-

puter-science departments and these have attracted meritorious students to join the IT field. It is a positive sign for the flourishing of the sector, he told the function.

Dr Muhammad Zafar Iqbal of Electronics and Computer Science Department of Shahjalal University of Science and Technology in Sylhet, the host of the international conference, presided over the inaugural function.

But the host had to shift the venue to Dhaka for security of foreign guests following 'threats from some fundamentalist groups.' The groups had been unleashing threats to gherao the university over naming of a hall after Jahangir Imam, the organisers said.

According to Dr Zafar Iqbal, Chairman of the Conference Organising Committee, a total of 60 research papers, out of the 98 submitted, will be presented in different working sessions. The papers were scrutinised by experts.

The third ICCIT, originally planned as a three-day meet, was reduced to a two-day affair because of hartals on December 5-6. Dhaka University organised the first conference and BUET the second ICCIT.

Organisers said that more than 250 delegates, including experts from Australia, Japan, Ghana, Finland, the United Kingdom and India are taking part in the ICCIT. The number of local computer and IT experts is more than 100.

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