

Majority of firms worldwide shy of e-business

SINGAPORE, Feb 2: The vast majority of the world's financial services companies are hesitant to invest in Internet capabilities despite optimism over how e-commerce could boost future business, according to a survey released today, reports AFP.

Accounting and consultancy firm Arthur Andersen said a poll conducted late last year also showed that Asia Pacific institutions were more conservative towards e-business than their counterparts in the United States and Europe.

"Financial services companies are falling to seize the Internet," Andrew Tan, business consulting partner at Arthur Andersen, told reporters at a briefing.

"E-business remains a passive or background factor for many countries."

Of the 200 companies contacted in the United States, South America, Europe and Asia Pacific, only 18 per cent thought e-business was an issue of greater strategic importance than consolidation and cost reduction.

A key obstacle to acceptance of e-business development in the financial services industry was concern about how customers would perceive the security of their transactions, Tan said.

Eighty per cent of companies shared this concern, while 72 per cent also expressed fears over the potential cost. Two thirds were worried about the ability of their human resources to support such a strategy.

Arthur Andersen conducted the survey from October to November last year to uncover why a persistent gap existed between the industry's acknowledgment of the power of e-business and its preparedness to invest.

Despite their reluctance to spend on e-business, Tan said, most of the companies were enthusiastic about the levels of Internet-generated growth in the coming years with asset management businesses expecting a 158 per cent growth in the retail banking sector over the next two years.

Tim Kerslake, business consulting manager, said the conservative views of Asian institutions interviewed in Singapore, Hong Kong and Japan reflected "a slight lag in market development behind the United States and Europe."

Only 50 per cent of Asian companies were bullish on expected increases in e-business revenue compared to 88 per cent in the United States and Europe.

Developing world wants role in IMF succession

WASHINGTON, Feb 2: Developing countries are fed up with being bossed around by their rich partners at the International Monetary Fund and want more say in who becomes the next head of the institution, a senior IMF official said, reports Reuters.

The official, who asked not to be identified, said yesterday the 11 IMF executive board members from developing countries were lobbying their richer partners to present more than one candidate for the position, which falls vacant on Feb 14.

It was the latest in a series of attempts by developing countries to speak with a single voice at multilateral institutions and at international gatherings like the 1999 trade talks in Seattle. It could complicate the rich world's negotiations on who should succeed France's Michel Camdessus.

"Our objective should be finding the best man for the job, regardless of nationality," the IMF official said.

The executive board is the body formally responsible for appointing a new managing director to replace Camdessus, who steps down this month after 13 years.

It comprises 24 individuals from IMF member countries, most of whom represent a constituency of countries and 11 of whom have clubbed together in what they call the G11.

"We will not accept a situation where a name is put before the board selected by a subgroup of the membership, presenting board members with a fait accompli," the IMF official said.

"We would like to have more than one name for the board to decide on. We would like these names to be given in advance so we have an opportunity for a period of time after the names are announced to consult with our authorities."

The post of IMF managing director has traditionally gone to a European, just as an American traditionally heads the World Bank, Germany, arguing

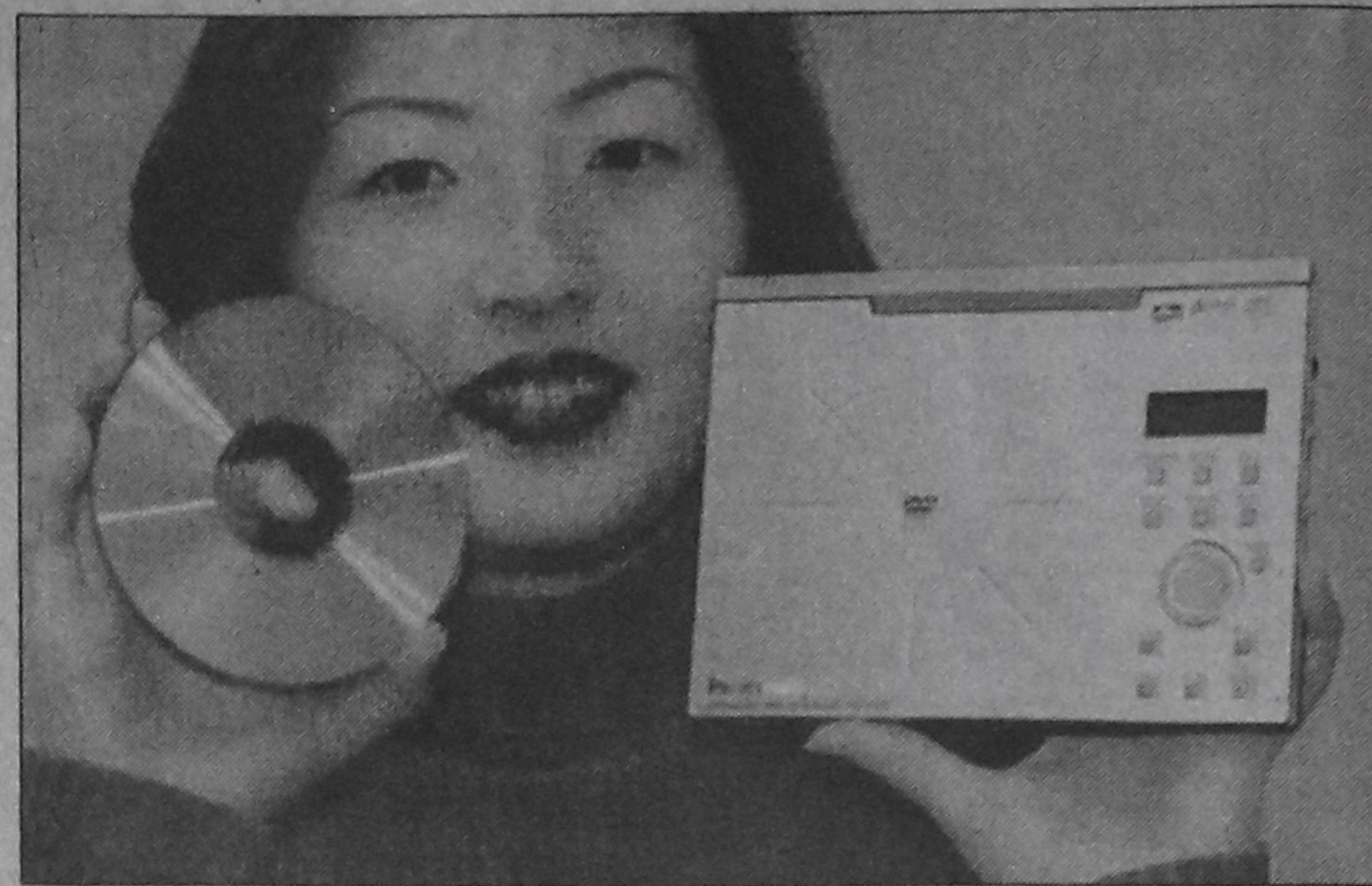
that it is time a German won a top international job, nominated finance ministry official Carlo Koch-Weser and Berlin has lobbied for him fiercely.

Listen up

He admitted their share of votes would not be enough to block a Koch-Weser appointment, but hoped it would send a signal. "Our voice must be heard," he said.

An international monetary source said reservations from developing countries appeared to be one reason why France and the United States had been so lukewarm about the German candidate — the two countries effectively acted as lightning rods to channel views from the developing world.

"The emerging world ... doesn't care that Britain already has (the leadership of) NATO or that Italy heads the European Commission," he said. "They want the best candidate."



Kazumi Tamamoto, Japan's electronics giant Matsushita Electric employee displays the world's smallest and lightest DVD player DVD-PV55, measuring 185mmx140mmx15.5mm and weighing 320g, at the company's head office in Tokyo February 1. Matsushita will put it on the domestic market with a price of 58,000 yen (550 USD) March 10 and will start to export from April.

— AFP photo

US govt wants Congress to okay more cash for debt relief

WASHINGTON, Feb 2: The US administration wants Congress to approve more cash to pay for debt relief, and is seeking money to pay for vaccinations and health care in some of the poorest countries in the world, reports Reuters.

Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers, in remarks prepared for delivery at a reception celebrating the international community's Highly Indebted Poor Countries' initiative on Tuesday, said President Bill Clinton was asking for a supplementary \$210 million in the 2000 budget for the initiative.

"It is good accounting to write off debts that will never be repaid. And it is good economics to reduce debts when the effort to collect those debts creates such an overhang that you reduce the amount you will ultimately collect," Summers said.

"It is also morally right, at a time when interest payments on foreign debt in some of the poorest countries in the world exceed their annual spending on education or health," he added.

and Mauritania were likely to qualify for the enhanced programme within days.

Money to pay for the programme comes from bilateral contributions from member countries of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and from income from a complicated paper transaction that revalues IMF gold reserves by selling gold to countries — at market rates — and then allowing countries to use that gold to repay debts to the fund.

The deal creates windfall profits for the International Monetary Fund because, under a quirk of international finances, IMF gold is valued at some \$48 per ounce compared to a market price of \$282.

Summers said the administration also wanted Congress to approve \$50 million to buy vaccines for poor countries and to boost funding for research on malaria, tuberculosis and the immunodeficiency disease AIDS.

"Providing vaccines to prevent these deaths is one of the most cost-effective ways there is of raising the well being and productivity of people in the poorest countries," Summers said. The Clinton administration also wants the World Bank and other international development banks to earmark an additional \$400 million to \$600 million annually for loans to the poorest countries to boost their efforts at preventing and treating infectious diseases, Summers said.

Exchange Rates

Following are the indicative foreign exchange rates against Taka of American Express Bank Ltd.

Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	51.2300	51.2700	50.8100	50.6670	50.5860
Pound Sg	82.9065	82.9702	81.6771	81.4311	81.315
Deutsche Mark	25.8163	25.8365	24.8123	24.7376	24.7024
Swiss Franc	31.0862	31.1104	30.4434	30.3517	30.3086
Japanese Yen	0.4789	0.4743	0.4653	0.4639	0.4632
Dutch Guilder	22.9124	22.9303	22.0213	21.9650	21.9238
Danish Krone	6.7266	6.7319	6.5814	6.5615	6.5522
Australians	33.3097	33.3358	31.9951	31.8987	31.8534
Belgian Franc	1.2517	1.2526	1.2030	1.1994	1.1977
Canadian \$	35.8954	35.7232	34.6680	34.5616	34.5125
French Franc	7.6975	7.7035	7.3981	7.3759	7.3654
Hong Kong \$	6.6980	6.6931	6.5179	6.4982	6.4890
Italian Lira	0.0261	0.0261	0.0251	0.0250	0.0250
Norway Kroner	6.2066	6.2115	6.1062	6.0878	6.0791
Singapore \$	30.5304	30.5542	29.5579	29.4689	29.4270
Saudi Rial	13.9899	13.9979	13.7958	13.7543	13.7347
UAE Dirham	5.8422	5.8467	5.7699	5.7526	5.7444
Qatari Riyal	14.1129	14.1240	13.9167	13.8748	13.8551
Kuwaiti dinar	173.3065	173.4438	160.8420	160.3577	160.1298
Thai Bhat	1.3563	1.3674	1.3522	1.3482	1.3462
Euro	50.4923	50.5317	48.5286	48.3825	48.3137

Bill buying rates

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
50.7112	50.3866	49.9632	49.5398	49.1163	48.2695

US dollar London Interbank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

Buying	Selling	Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months
50.5850	51.2300	USD	5.905	6.09125	6.3075	6.54	6.77625
81.3154	82.9065	GBP	6.11234	6.24	6.4143	6.625	6.82391

Cash/TT

Cash/TT	Cash/TT	Euro	3.31	3.49625	3.6975	3.89688	4.08
---------	---------	------	------	---------	--------	---------	------

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Bhat	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
43.587/43.592	51.89/51.90	37.56/37.61	3.7999/3.8003	7555/7565	1130/1131

Market Commentary

There was little demand for USD in the interbank, with the USD/BDT rate moving between 51.09-51.12. The interbank call market was liquid and the rates moved between 5.25-5.75 per cent.

The dollar rose to its highest level against the yen in nearly five months on Wednesday, as the market put its trust in the US Federal Reserve ahead of a policy-setting meeting later in the day. The euro, meanwhile, took a breather against the dollar after four days of successive record lows below parity. Dealers said the dollar rose against the yen on expectations the United States would be able gradually to ease its economic expansion, which entered the record books on Tuesday as the longest-ever, starting its 107th month of unbroken growth. The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) is widely expected to sanction a 0.25 percentage point rise in its target for the key 5.5 per cent federal funds rate, with some expecting a similar rise in the 5.0 per cent discount rate.

But the buoyant dollar remained exposed to a downside risk in the wake of a rate rise, analysts said. "The market is expecting a rate rise, but that doesn't mean it won't react," said one senior foreign exchange strategist in London.

এখন মহিলারাও বিমান বাহিনীতে যোগ দিতে পারেন

JOIN BAF AS GROUND BRANCH OFFICER

নির্বাচন পদ্ধতি

ক) প্রাথমিক ডাক্তারী পরীক্ষা।
খ) লিখিত পরীক্ষা : আই কিউ, ইংরেজী
গ) মৌখিক পরীক্ষা।

শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা

ব্রাঞ্চ :
এডুকেশন

লিঙ্গাল
একাউন্টস
মেডিকেল

অন্যান্য যোগ্যতা

নাগরিকত্ব : বাংলাদেশী মহিলা।
বয়স : বয়স ও উচ্চতানুযায়ী।
উচ্চতা : ৫ ফুট ২ ইঞ্চি কমপক্ষে
চেষ্ট : ২৮ ইঞ্চি কমপক্ষে (২ ইঞ্চি সম্প্রসারণ)

বৈবাহিক অবস্থা : বিবাহিত/ অবিবাহিত।
বয়স : অনধিক ২৮ বছর
(৩০ জুন ২০০০ ইং)।

প্রার্থিতার জন্য অযোগ্যতা

ক) "আই এস এস বি" পরীক্ষায় দুইবার ক্রীড আউট/দুইবার প্রত্যাখ্যাত (তবে একবার ক্রীড আউট ও একবার প্রত্যাখ্যাত প্রার্থীগণ আবেদন করতে পারবে)।
খ) সেনা/নৌবিমান বাহিনী অথবা যে কোন সরকারী চাকুরী হতে বরখাস্ত বা প্রত্যাখ্যাত।
গ) যে কোন বিচারালয় হতে দণ্ডপ্রাপ্ত।
ঘ) আপীল মেডিক্যাল বোর্ড কর্তৃক প্রত্যাখ্যাত।

আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ

ক) "সেন্ট্রাল বন-পাবলিক ফাউন্ডেশন" এর অনুকূলে ৭৫/- (পঁচাত্তর) টাকা মূল্যের ব্যাংক ড্রাফট/পে-অর্ডার (অফিসেরযোগে) এর বিনিময়ে ২৯ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০০০ পর্যন্ত প্রতি কার্য দিবসে বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনী তথ্য ও নির্বাচনী কেন্দ্র, পুরাতন বিমান বন্দর, তেজগাঁও, ঢাকা-১২১৫, হতে আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করা যাবে।
খ) ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অবশ্যই ঢাকা (মহাখালী/ফার্মগেট/কাওরান বাজার/ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট) এলাকার অফিসী, সোনালী, রূপালী অথবা জনতা ব্যাংক শাখার পরিশোধযোগ্য হতে হবে।
গ) প্রার্থীকে স্বয়ং আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহ করতে হবে। আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহকালে 'তথ্য ও নির্বাচনী কেন্দ্র' প্রার্থীকে প্রয়োজনীয় এবং প্রাসঙ্গিক তথ্য ও নিয়মাবলী সংক্ষেপে অবহিত করবে।

আবেদনপত্র জমাদানের নিয়মাবলী

প্রার্থীকে প্রাথমিক নির্বাচনী পরীক্ষার সময় আবেদনপত্র যথাযথভাবে পূরণ করে নিম্নবর্ণিত কাগজপ্রতিলিপ জমা দিতে হবে :
ক) সকল শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার মূল অথবা সাময়িক সনদপত্র, প্রশংসাপত্র এবং মার্কশীট সমূহের সত্যায়িত ফটোকপি।

খ) বৈবাহিক অবস্থা ও স্থায়ী ঠিকানা উল্লেখ সহ স্ব ইউনিয়ন পরিষদ/ মিউনিসিপ্যাল চেয়ারম্যান/ ওয়ার্ড কমিশনার অথবা ১ম শ্রেণীর গেজেটেড কর্মকর্তার নিকট হতে প্রার্থীর নাগরিকত্ব ও চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র।
গ) সাম্প্রতিককালে তোলা পাসপোর্ট আকারের সত্যায়িত দুই কপি ফটো।
ঘ) বর্তমান সর্বশেষ শিক্ষা প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধান কর্তৃক প্রদত্ত চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র।
ঙ) চাকুরীরত প্রার্থীগণের ক্ষেত্রে স্ব স্ব কর্মস্থল/প্রতিষ্ঠান প্রধানের নিকট হতে প্রার্থিতার জন্য অনুমতিপত্র।

বি. ডি. অমরুণ আবেদনপত্র বাতিল বনে গণ্য হবে।

হুঁশিয়ারী :
ভর্তির ব্যাপারে কোন অসং ব্যক্তির সাথে যোগাযোগ করে প্রতারণিত হবেন না।

আবেদনপত্র সংগ্রহের শেষ তারিখ : ২৯ ফেব্রুয়ারী ২০০০ইং

বাংলাদেশ বিমান বাহিনী সদর দপ্তর, ঢাকা ক্যান্টনমেন্ট

ক্রমিক নং ০২/২০০০ নথি নং বিস/১০৬৪/০১১/রিক্রুট তাং ১৭ জানুয়ারী ২০০০