

# Clinton to meet US businessmen on China trade relations

WASHINGTON, Apr 20: President Bill Clinton will meet business leaders at the White House today as part of his push to normalise trade relations with China, the White House said yesterday, reports Reuters.

Several corporate chief executive officers will visit to talk about Clinton's drive "to generate support for that on Capitol Hill," the president's chief spokesman, Joe Lockhart, told reporters.

He said he did not know which CEOs might attend the White House meeting, which he said probably will be held behind closed doors.

The AFL-CIO, the biggest US labour union confederation, is strongly opposed to normalising trade ties with China on the grounds that China has a poor human-rights record and lax labour standards — something that could end up costing US workers jobs as capital seeks

China's cheaper labour. Separately, Lockhart voiced disappointment that the United States did not get enough support to win condemnation of Beijing's human-rights record by the UN Human Rights Commission in Geneva.

"We pushed very hard on it because we think it's very important that we go on the record as opposing human rights abuses in China," he said.

Rebuking China's human-rights record is widely seen as an essential part of selling a China trade deal on Capitol Hill, Lockhart said. The United States will continue to work hard to make the case "that China needs to do more on the human-rights front."

On Tuesday China defeated a US effort to censure it for violating individual liberties, thwarting months of international lobbying led by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright.

But the administration re-

mains confident that Congress will approve permanent normal trade relation for Beijing, which would ensure that US companies benefit from an agreement opening China's vast market place, potentially the world's largest 1.3 billion consumers.

"Granting PNTR (permanent normal trade relations) this year surrenders all leverage we hold in our trading relationship to the Chinese government and renders the United States powerless to protect our values and interests," Gephhardt said in a speech at Webster University in a suburb of St. Louis.

Clinton administration officials said they were disappointed with Gephhardt's decision but said it would not derail their efforts to obtain PNTR for China.

"I'm not trying to trivialise it. He is indeed an important player," Commerce Secretary William Daley told reporters in Washington. "We are hopeful that the impact of his statements will not have a major impact on other Democrats."

Gephhardt's announcement was carefully crafted to shore up support from Democratic allies in organised labour ahead of the November presidential election without enraging the party's new-found friends in the high-tech business community.

Congressional aides said Gephhardt's motivation was clear to improve his chances of retaking the House and becoming its next Speaker.

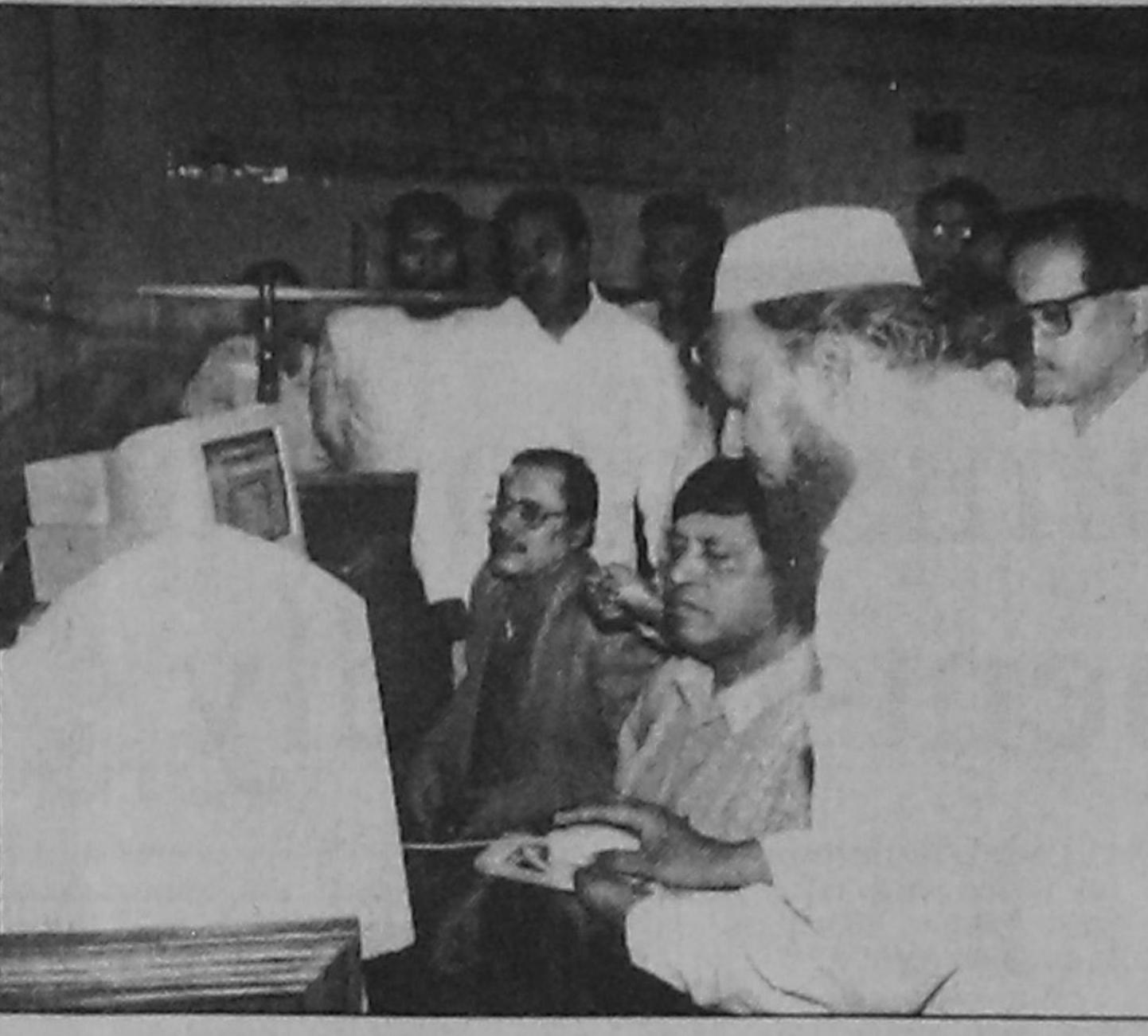
**BR to receive telecom systems from Spain**

Bangladesh Railway (BR) will receive telecommunication systems worth over Tk 33 crore for the on-going contract No. 1 of Jamuna (Bangabandhu) Bridge Railway link project from Alcatel contracting SA or Spain against Spanish government funding, says a press release.

An agreement in this regard was recently signed between Bangladesh Railway and Alcatel in the project office of the Jamuna Bridge railway link project, Dhaka. Iqbaluddin Chaudhury, General Manager of Jamuna Bridge Railway Link Project (JBRPL), and Agustin Solis, Export Manager of Alcatel, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective agencies. Serajuddin, Chief Engineer, JBRPL, Stephane Inabut of Alcatel, R J McCurdy, Project Manager, CSC, and other senior officials of Bangladesh Railway and Alcatel were present on the occasion.

These telecommunication systems will be constructed along 99-km railway alignment of the bridges railway link project from Joydevpur (Gazipur) to Jamtoli junction of Sirajganj district.

But the NIESR expects the



S A Chowdhury, Managing Director of Janata Bank, inaugurates the computerised banking systems at Kawran Bazar Corporate (WASA Bhaban) Branch for better and prompt services Wednesday. Dr Khondaker Azharul Haque, Managing Director of WASA, and general managers of the bank were also present on the occasion.

— JB photo

## S'pore 2nd most competitive economy

SINGAPORE, Apr 19: Singapore has again been named the world's second most competitive economy after the United States in an annual independent survey, with Asian arch-rival Hong Kong slipping to 14th place, reports AFP.

In a report released Wednesday, the Switzerland-based International Institute for Management Development (IMD) said Singapore showed "extreme resilience" amid the Asian economic crisis which

erupted mid-1997. Singapore has been ranked second in the survey for five years running. Its economy expanded by 5.4 per cent in 1999, from nearly zero the year before, and higher growth is forecast this year.

The survey covers a wide range of economic and other criteria, including government, finance, infrastructure, management, science and technology and labour force. Hong Kong fell to 14th place,

from seventh in 1999 and third from 1996 to 1998, as its minimal growth in 1999 failed to live up to that of its neighbors.

Taiwan fell to 22nd place from 18th because of its "volatile political environment" and persistent budget deficit, the IMD said.

Japan was ranked 17th, down one notch from its 1999 placing, after posting disappointing growth last year "despite many government programmes."



Iqbaluddin Chaudhury, General Manager, Jamuna Bridge Railway Link Project, and Agustin Solis, Export Manager of ALCATEL contracting S A of Spain, sign an agreement recently for the supply and installation of telecommunication systems worth Taka 33 crore along the 99-km railway alignment of the project from Joydevpur to Jamtoli junction.

— BR photo

Directorate General Defence Purchase				
Ministry of Defence				
New Airport Road, Tejgaon, Dhaka-1215				
<b>Re-Tender</b>				
1. Sealed tenders are invited in foreign currency from bona fide manufacturers/dealers/suppliers/indentors (enlisted firm & firm applied for enlistment) for supply of the following items for Bangladesh "Army":				
Ser No	Nomenclature	Date of Selling From	Date of Opening To	Currency
a.	Spares for Wh Dozer Zettel Mayer ZD-3000 (Qty - 12 line)	23-4-2000	14-5-2000	15-5-2000
				Foreign
				994/P-7
2. Tender schedule with detailed specifications/conditions will be available on payment as per I/T selling rate (Not refundable) during office hours between 0800 hours to 1300 hours. The tender can be dropped latest by 1000 hrs and opened at 1005 hours on the specified date of opening in presence of all tenders (if present).				
ISPR / Misc /2000/341 DFP-8825-17/4 G-712 For Director General.				

### গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর

মহাখালী, ঢাকা-১২১২

তারিখ: ১৯/৪/২০০০

### বিজ্ঞপ্তি

১৯৯-২০০০ শিক্ষা বর্ষে বালাদেশের বিভিন্ন সরকারী মেডিকেল কলেজসমূহে ১ম বর্ষ এমবিবিএস কোর্সে ভর্তির জন্য ইতিমুখ্য প্রযোজন মেডিকেল কলেজ হতে আসন শুরুতার কারণে ব্যক্তিগত অভিযানের পর ১ম স্বাস্থ্য মনোনীত করা হল। তানেকে তাদের মধ্যে প্রচলিত এবং আসন শুরুতার প্রেক্ষিত কলেজ বর্তন করা হয়েছে। স্বাস্থ্য প্রতি শাস্ত্র কলেজের মধ্যে সর্বশেষ কলেজের অধীন মনোনীত স্বাস্থ্য মেডিকেল কলেজ কাজ সম্পূর্ণ করতে নির্দেশ দেওয়া হল। অসিদ্ধতর শাস্ত্র কলেজের অধীন একাশিত ভর্তি বিজ্ঞপ্তি অস্থান শীর্ষস্থ অবস্থিত কর্তৃত আবেদনকারী ছাত্রদের কাছে আন্তরিকভাবে আবেদন করে দেওয়া হবে।

Candidates Selected from Waiting List after Automigration  
Khulna Medical College  
CM0019 CM0539 CM1146 DM0120 DM0394 DM0909 DM0966 DM1119 DM1635 DM1747 DM1759 DM1767 DM4025 DM4909 FM0181 MM0265 RM0130 SB0367 SS0660 SS0955 SS2401 SS3123 SS3228 SS3539 SS3843 SS3953

Faridpur Medical College  
CM0054 CM0568 CO0790 DM0623 DM1020 DM2006 DM2745 DM3634 DM3739 DM3945 DM4419 DM4442 FM0221 FM0225 KM0339 KM0580 MM0324 SB0391 SS0392 SS0616 SS0873  
Bogra Medical College  
BM0069 BM0156 CM0045 CM0183 CM0215 CM0292 CM0447 CM0448 CM1396 DM0513 DM0657 DM0693 DM0896 DM0818 DM1630 DM2465 DM2609 DM2666 DM4078 DM4355 DM4620 MM0125 MM0188 MM0224 RM0105 RM0138 RM0151 RM0365 RM0625 RM0757 RM0784 RM0874 RP0375 SB0359 SS0209

Dinajpur Medical College  
BM0154 BM0492 CM0096 CM0224 CM0259 CM1054 CM1210 DJ0059 DM0528 DM0589 DM0732 DM0997 DM1105 DM1225 DM1709 DM1826 DM2106 DM2309 DM3753 DM3755 DM3823 DM3930 DM4250 DM4435 MM0796 RM0773 RM0786 RM0792 RM1134 SB0337 SM0146 SS0694 SS2308 SS2313 SS2809 SS3022 SS3118 SS3278 SS3738 SS3950  
Comilla Medical College  
DM3995 DM4742 DM4772 SS2302 SS2423 SS2869

DFP-9448-20/4  
G-724

অধ্যাপক শাহ মনির হোসেন  
পরিচালক  
চিকিৎসা শিক্ষা ও স্বাস্থ্য অধিদপ্তর  
শাস্ত্র অধিদপ্তর, মহাখালী, ঢাকা

### Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Authority

222 New Eskaton Road, Dhaka-1000

Dated: 09-04-2000

### Tender Notice No 30/99-2000

Sealed tenders are invited from such experienced contractors as for supply, installation, testing & commissioning of Hydropneumatic pump including motor at Mongla EPZ, Mongla, Bagerhat under Bangladesh Export Processing Zone Area.

Earnest money at the rate 2.5% of quoted amount through Bank Draft/Pay Order should be submitted with the tender. Otherwise, tender will be treated as cancelled.

Supplier firms must submit attested copies of the undermentioned documents in support of their eligibility with the tender. Otherwise, tender will be treated as cancelled.

1) Current year trade licence.  
2) Taxpayer's certificate (TIN) from Income Tax Authority & VAT registration certificate.

3) Work order & work completion certificate from an officer of minimum Executive Engineer's status.

Any document submitted with the tender if found false or fake, then the earnest money submitted with the tender will be forfeited and the tender cancelled.

Tenders can be purchased at Tk 750/- (non-refundable) from BEPZA Executive Office, 222 New Eskaton Road, Dhaka, Chittagong EPZ, South Halishahar, Chittagong; Dhaka EPZ, Ganakbari, Savar, Dhaka; Mongla EPZ, Mongla Accouts Section & all Divisional Commissioners' Offices up to 7-5-2000. In case of purchasing tender document from the office of Divisional Commissioner, the prescribed price of tender should be paid through Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of BEPZA. Acknowledgment receipt/money receipt against payment of the amount should be enclosed with the tender.

Tenders will be received at Chief Engineer's office chamber of BEPZA Executive Office, Project Engineer's office chamber at Chittagong, Dhaka EPZ project Engineer's Office chamber, Mongla EPZ & at all Divisional Commissioners' offices up to 12:00 Noon of 8-5-2000.

Tenders submitted at different divisions/offices will be opened only at the office chamber of Chief Engineer, BEPZA Executive Office on 10-5-2000 at 10:00 AM in presence (if any) of the tenders.

If under any circumstance, it happens to be a govt holiday on the last date of selling tender, it can be purchased on the next working day, and in that case tenders can be submitted up to the day after the changed last date of purchasing tender. If it happens to be a govt holiday on the date of submitting/opening tender, it can be submitted/opened on the next working day.

The authority reserves the right to accept any of the submitted tenders or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason.

Abu Reza Khan  
Chief Engineer.

### Microsoft unveils new handheld computers

SEATTLE, Apr 20: Microsoft

Corp. and three partners unveiled a new generation of handheld organisers that will not only keep appointments but will play music, record sound, balance checkbooks and surf the Internet, reports AP.

The software giant and three computer manufacturers are betting millions on a direct challenge to the Palm computer.

The Pocket PC, which debuted Wednesday, represents Microsoft's third try at building a successful handheld device, a market the company has invested millions of dollars in with disappointing results. This time, Microsoft believes it and its partners have a device that will give market leader Palm Computing Inc. a run for its money.

**IMF aid tranche for Indonesia likely by May 15**

JAKARTA, Apr 19: The International Monetary Fund (IMF) could disburse its next aid tranche of some 400 million dollars to Indonesia on May 15, Coordinating Minister For Economy, Finance and Industry Kwik Kian Gie said today, reports AFP.

The IMF had earlier delayed the disbursement of the funds from early April to early June due to delays in Indonesia's implementation of its pledged economic reforms.

"The disbursement of 400 million dollars, set for June by the IMF, could possibly be disbursed on May 15 depending on the approval of the fund's board," Kwik told reporters prior to a cabinet meeting at the Bina Graha presidential office here.

He did not elaborate on how it would be possible for the money to flow before the scheduled June IMF board meeting to review whether the promised economic reforms had been implemented.

The IMF has taken issue with 42 of the 118 reform items promised in the government's latest letter of intent (LOI) to the financial institution. Indonesian officials have said.

Indonesia's bilateral creditors in the Paris Club agreed two weeks ago to reschedule 5.8 billion dollars of Indonesia's public debt on the condition the country's review by the IMF was completed by June 5.

### Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to foreign currencies.

Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer



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