

29" Colour TV with
8 Picture in Picture &
Nicam Stereo Sound
Also Available 14", 20", 21"



TRINCO LIMITED— Authorized Distributor of DAEWOO Electronics
Dhaka: 8115307-10 CTG: 716353, 723579 Khulna: 720304 Bogra: 6215

ECNEC okays six projects

The Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) at a meeting on Tuesday approved six projects worth Tk 1159.36 crore including a project assistance component of Tk 881.44 crore, an official press release said, reports BSS.

The meeting, held in the NEC conference room, was presided over by Finance Minister and alternate chairman of the ECNEC Shah A M S Kibria.

The approved projects are Matamuhuri irrigation project (Pilot Project), Char development and settlement Project-2 (CDSP-2), National nutrition project-1 (NNP-1), Non-formal education project-1 (Amended), Infrastructure development and reconstruction in Nilkhel (Dhaka University) area and Fenchuganj gas-field development project.

The meeting was also approved of the projects which were approved earlier by State Minister Dr Mohiuddin Khan Alamgir. The projects include expansion of shrimp cultivation process projects; Gopalganj Circuit House expansion, development and reconstruction project; and Improvement of Kendua BII Water Management and Polder 36/1 expansion project.

Standard Insurance opens 4 branches in city

Standard Insurance Limited opened new branches at Dilkhusha, North-South Road, Elephant Road and Panthapath in the city recently, says a press release.

Chairman of Standard Insurance Limited Engr AKM Mosharraf Hussain and Chairman of Standard Group of Industries Engr Md Atiqur Rahman inaugurated the four branches. Managing Director of the Company M Ahsanullah was present on the occasion.

Standard Insurance Limited started general insurance business on the first day of the new millennium and launched two branches at Agrabad and New Jubilee Road in Chittagong.

Seminar on sewing, shoe machine needles held

The largest needle manufacturer of the world, Groz-Beckert KG, Germany in cooperation with its local agent Cosmotrade Associates organised a two-day seminar on sewing and shoe machine needles and its applications at BRAC Centre Inn in the city on June 19 & 20, says a press release.

The seminar lecture was given by Harry Vornholt, Consultant for Groz-Beckert, KG, Germany.

Engr Salim Hossain of Cosmotrade Associates delivered the introductory speech.

The seminar, first of its kind in Bangladesh, discussed the ways to improve the product quality and productivity in garments, shoe and leather industry.

The seminar was largely attended by managers, engineers and technicians from the product development, production and maintenance sections. Critical analysis of the production process was made and the contribution of needles to improve productivity, cost control etc. were assessed.

Critical analysis of the Machine Down Time (MDT) showed the benefit of using best quality needles. The cost savings achieved are 10 times or more than the initial additional purchase expenses for the best quality needles.

SEAMARK takes part in European Food Exhibition

Star Business Report
Seafood Marketing International PLC (SEAMARK) successfully participated in the recently held European Ethnic Food, Drink, Restaurant and Catering Exhibition 2000, says a press release.

The exhibition was organised at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC), Birmingham, from June 11-13 where people from all walks of life, especially wholesalers, retailers and caterers from the food industry paid visits to the SEAMARK stand in large numbers.

SEAMARK participated the exhibition in the backdrop of its successes in seafood business in recent years. SEAMARK's seafood and poultry products, including its famous King Prawn of different types and brands were on display.

Fresh water fish from Bangladesh were also put on display, which drew special attraction. Besides traditional prawn products, this year SEAMARK has specially projected its high-quality chicken products, which proved to be a great marketing success in the UK and beyond.

The company's stand and products, which were located prominently in the exhibition, captured the eyes of traders and visitors alike. SEAMARK, under a special arrangement, also made cooking demonstrations of its chicken and prawn products.



The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA, THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2000

Networking strain on operators taxing cell phone users

Outgoing GrameenPhone MD tells The Daily Star

Star Business Report

Restrictions on cellular phone operators to build isolated 'island network' and the condition on them to go for continuous networking, is turning cell infrastructure costly and taxing the country's phone-users, as they have to pay higher charges, says Trond Moe, the outgoing Managing Director of GrameenPhone (GP).

"Such conditions are quite unusual. This is just making the network costly without any justification," said Moe in an exclusive interview with The Daily Star. Ola Ree, who will replace Moe, was also present during the interview.

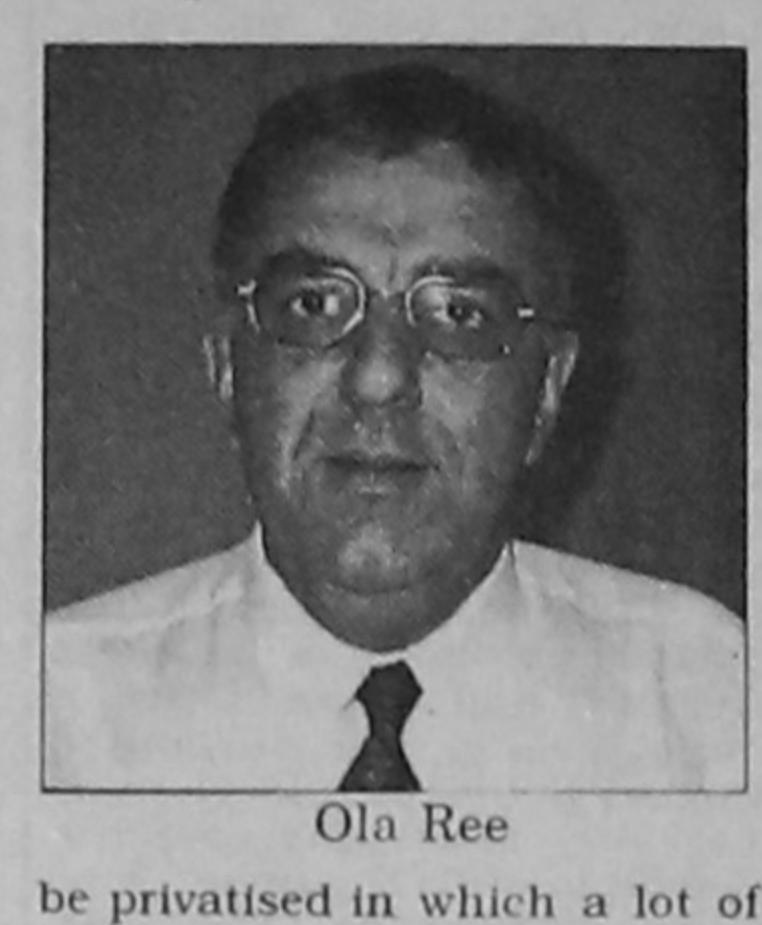
The government has done a good job by allowing competition in the telecommunications sector and letting private operators play in the field, but a number of steps need to be taken to jolt up the sector," said Moe.

In the short-term, the government can reduce high import duty on handsets, which now exceeds 60 per cent. "If it is withdrawn, sales would get a big boost, creating scopes for the government to make more money in air-time revenue. At the same time, the cell phone operators in the country would also increase their capacity," Moe said.

Trond Moe also said that the frequency spectrum given to such operators was pretty low, which at the same time limits their call capacity.



Trond Moe



Ola Ree

be privatised in which a lot of foreign companies are interested.

Ree also said Grameen Phone's fibre optic cable taken from Bangladesh Railway still has a lot of unutilised capacity, which, he feels, could be sub-leased to other operators.

"We (operators) have to agree whether they want increased interconnection capacity. It will take four to five months. This would solve some interconnection-related congestion hitches, but not that of BTTB's own problems. BTTB should side by side invest in its own network."

Ola Ree however suggested that the government should allow competition in land lines too. He felt that BTTB needs to

He said that for encouraging further competitiveness, Bangladesh should also open international gateways by hooking up to the submarine cable.

Both Moe and Ree identified Bangladesh as a prospective cellular phone market.

"I find the market here as a substantially big one. What is important about Bangladesh is the exceptionally-low telephone access, and so, the opportunity there is fairly big," said Moe, adding "we should have more than a million subscribers to match India. The current number is 450,000 BTTB connections, 100,000 Grameen Phone, 40,000 City Cell, 30,000 Amtel and 15,000 Sheba lines. There are scopes to double the lines every year."

GrameenPhone should explore the opportunities," said Ree. "World wide, each cell phone connection adds US\$ 6,000 to the GNP of an economy."

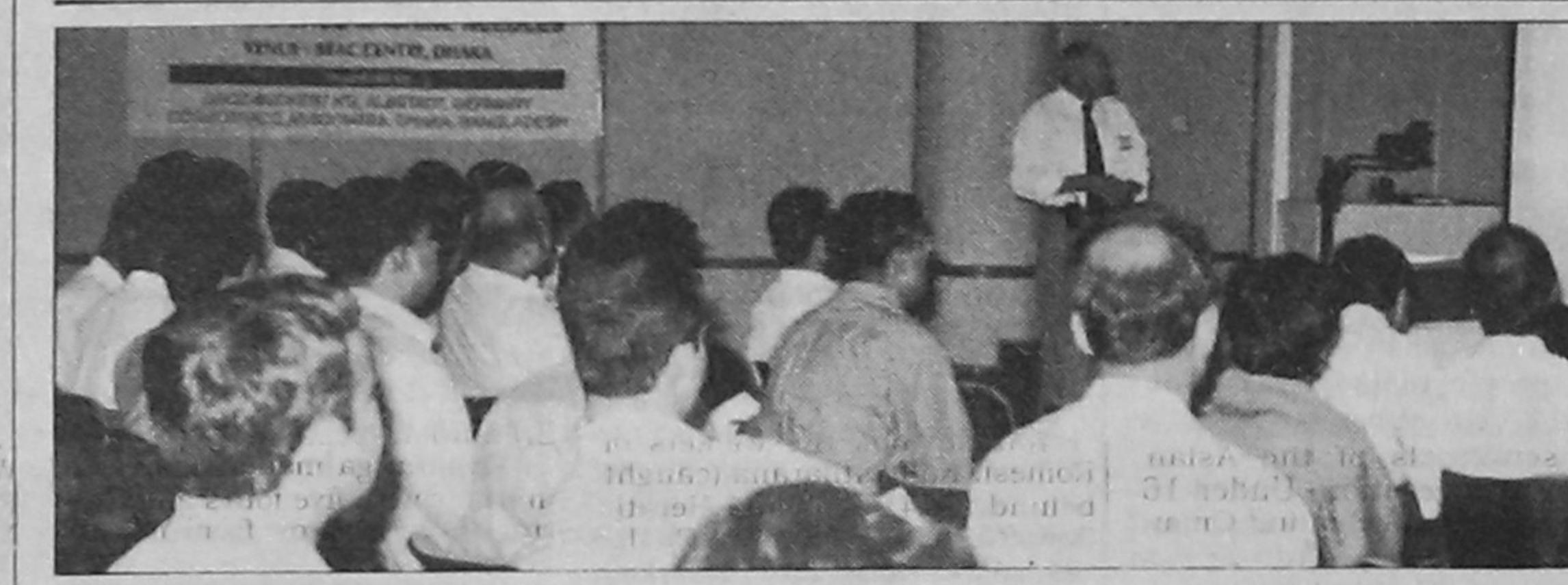
Talking about the GP's new products, Moe said these have evoked a lot of good customer response. Prepaid service and full national and international roaming services are quite popular.

"When I became the GP managing director in 1997, we had only about 18,000 subscribers. But now the number has risen to around 100,000. We have grown from a merely small operator to a quality one as far as our services, quality and market expansion is concerned," said Moe.

Regarding the introduction of new technologies like wireless application protocol (WAP), Moe and Ree said that Bangladesh should wait before these technologies are tested and proven abroad. "Bangladesh should not be a test-bed for such advance technologies," Moe said.

The third generation mobile system with unlimited speed is going to hit the Japanese and US markets within a year from now.

"Technology is moving fast. For Bangladesh to keep pace, it needs more satellite capacity for international gateway," said Ree.



— Cassandra photo

Child labour abuses rampant in US farm industry

Human Rights Watch report says

WASHINGTON, June 21: Despite the Clinton administration's efforts to assert US leadership in fighting child labour overseas, hundreds of thousands of child farm labourers are working in abusive conditions in the United States, according to a new report released yesterday, says IPS.

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

While the US Fair Labour Standards Act (FLSA), bans "oppressive child labour," it permits children working on farms to be employed at the age of 12, rather than 14 as in other industries. In some states, there is no minimum age for farm work. In others, it's as low as nine or 10.

Unlike for other sectors, the law also fails to limit the number of hours a child may work each day, nor does it require overtime pay. And while the FLSA sets the minimum age for engaging in "hazardous" work, such jobs can be assigned to children farm workers at 16.

Abuses persist because the laws governing minors working in agriculture are much less stringent than those for other economic sectors, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'

Working as many as 18 hours a day during peak harvest period, the children, sometimes as young as 12 and 13, risk their health from pesticide poisoning, heat sickness and equipment injuries, according to the 104-page report, Fingers to the Bone: United States Failure to Protect Child Farm workers.'