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Aptech plans jt
Bachelor's degree
with Australian
university

Star Business Report

Aptech Worldwide together with the Southern Cross University (SCU), Australia, is going to introduce a Bachelor of Information Technology/Multimedia degree programme for the local students.

As per the initiative, a student will have to get a two-year degree from Aptech centres. On successful completion of the two-year programme, the student will be eligible for a one-year programme at one of the campuses of SCU, an internationally-recognised university with high academic standards.

The student will be awarded 'Credit Transfer' leading to a Bachelor of IT degree on completion of his third year study at SCU. Prof Bruce WN Lo of the School of Multimedia and Information Technology, SCU, said this while addressing as keynote speaker at the launching ceremony of the joint programme at a local hotel yesterday.

Dr Chowdhury Mofizur Rahman, head of the Department of Computer Science and Technology, BUET, was the chief guest while Australian High Commissioner Julianne Ittene and Aptech executive Uday Nirgutkar attended the ceremony as speakers. It was conducted by Aptech executive Tarun Mitra.

A student will have to pay 5,000 Australian dollar for per semester and 3,500 Australian dollar as living cost.

Prof Chowdhury termed the study cost 'very high' for the Bangladeshi students and urged Prof Bruce to reduce it so that the students could easily avail themselves of the opportunity offered by SCU.

**BLTC Board
recommends
27.5pc dividend**

The directors of Bangladesh Leaf Tobacco Co Ltd (BLTC) have recommended a 27.5 per cent dividend for its shareholders for the year 1999, says a press release.

This was revealed by the chairman of the company, A M Agha Yusuf, at the company's 22nd Annual General Meeting held at its factory premises at Barkhada in Kushtia recently.

He said that despite of adverse conditions prevailing in the country, the company continued purchasing, processing and local sales and export of tobacco.

The meeting was attended, among others, by directors Kafiluddin Mahmood, Agha Ahmed Yusuf, Maj Gen (Rtd) M Nurul Haq, A K Labibul Haq, Atiqur Rahman and Capt Rahmat Ali.

**Indian trade
unions postpone
strike against
privatisation**

NEW DELHI, Aug 13: Indian trade unions yesterday postponed a planned three-day national strike next week against the government's privatisation policies, saying they had been promised dialogue with Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee, says Reuters.

The prime minister assured us he will arrange for regular structured discussion with trade unions. Considering these developments it has been decided to defer the strike," the Committee of Public Sector Trade Unions said in a statement.

At least eight major trade unions representing thousands of workers took part in a meeting with Vajpayee on Saturday morning to discuss policies on privatisation of state firms and other issues affecting labour.

"We want to give the government a fair chance and see how far they will work on their promises. If they (the government) fail in their promise we will renew our agitation," G. Sanjeeva Reddy, president of the Indian National Trade Union Congress (INTUC), one of the country's leading trade unions, told Reuters.

Unions have stoutly opposed the government's move to sell shares in state-run firms to raise revenue.

They have consistently demanded that profitable state-run firms be kept out of the government's privatisation plan and that sales of stakes in these firms not exceed 40 per cent.

"The prime minister commented that he was not in favour of 'indiscriminate privatisation' and closure of state-run firms and said the government would keep in touch with trade unions on every problem," the statement said.

Union leaders said Vajpayee had also assured that the government would meet with them every six months to thrash out issues relating to privatisation and state-run firms.

In June, the government approved plans to sell equity in 33 state-run companies in an effort to raise 100 billion rupees (\$2.19 billion) in 2000/2001 (April-March).

The relatively weak mon-

DHAKA, MONDAY, AUGUST 14, 2000

Power Grid launches partnership with US Energy Assoc

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Prof Chowdhury termed the study cost 'very high' for the Bangladeshi students and urged Prof Bruce to reduce it so that the students could easily avail themselves of the opportunity offered by SCU.

On the other hand, the government has decided to postpone the strike against privatisation.

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