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The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA, FRIDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2000

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HSBC Car Loan scheme launched

As part of the plan to develop its Personal Banking products and services, The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited (HSBC) has recently launched Car Loan, says a press release.

The launching ceremony was held at the bank's main office on Sonargaon Road, Dhaka.

The loan is granted against the ability of the borrower to repay the same from his or her monthly income. The maximum loan amount is up to 70 per cent of the value of a reconditioned car and 60 per cent of a new car.

HSBC has arranged comprehensive insurance at a special discounted rate for its customers.

Commenting on the Car Loan, Manager-Personal Banking of HSBC Bangladesh, Joe Barker-Bennett, stated, "One of the main features of Car Loan is that it is secured by the car and does not require usual personal guarantees from reputed people and cash or government bonds as security which other banks insist upon."

Thus the loan application process will be quick and simple. There are also no hidden fees or charges when the loan is repaid. The loan amounts vary between Tk 50,000 and Tk 1,500,000. The monthly installment amount for a loan of Tk 400,000, maturing in 3 years would be Tk 14,562.

Shell's Sangu accomplishes 2m man-hour work, no LTI

The operation of the Sangu Gas Field has accomplished 2 million man-hours of work without incurring a single Lost Time Incident (LTI), says a press release.

The operations team, including 200 Bangladeshis nationals, achieved this milestone in safety within 28 months.

The day of Sangu is considered one of the world's toughest and challenging environments to work in.

An LTI is defined as any accident or injury, which results in person being unable to work on any day after the incident. The LTI measurement is common throughout the oil and gas industry and allows benchmarking of Health, Safety and Environment performance across all the companies.

The achievement by the Sangu operations team of LTI free performance since start up of the field is highly significant and is comparable with the safety performance of many operations in well established areas of the world.

Moshirraf Hossain, Chairman of Petrobangla, has lauded the performance of the Sangu operations team and presented a plaque to Andy Curtis, Field Manager of the Sangu operation in recognition of his team's commitment and dedication to high Health, Safety and Environment standards.

Andy Curtis, Field Manager of the Sangu operation said: "We are proud of the commitment to safe working demonstrated by our workforce, and their recognition that in doing so they do not only look after themselves but also their colleagues and our onshore neighbours."

The expertise of the Sangu operations team has grown rapidly over the last two years. Intense training programmes focussing on safety and competence development of the team have been conducted.

BTI, DBH hold joint client relationship evening

Building Technology & Ideas Ltd. (BTI), one of the pioneers and market leaders in the country's real estate sector with a proven track record, jointly organised a client relationship evening with DBH at the roof top of Celebration Point, the corporate head office of BTI Tuesday. It was attended by valued clients and officials of both BTI and DBH, elites of the city, says a press statement.

BTI has been operating in the real estate sector for more than 16 years, and has established itself as one of the leading developers in the market by completing 28 residential buildings to accommodate more than 600 apartments in different parts of the city.

The unique aspect of BTI's performance is its commitment to quality and the company got the recognition by being the first ISO-9001 certified company in the country's real estate sector.

BTI, an international joint venture non-banking financial company, is the premier housing finance corporation in the private sector and has already registered commendable performance growth.

IPDC signs equity subscription deal with USPC

Star Business Report

Industrial Promotion and Development Company of Bangladesh Limited (IPDC) yesterday signed a subscription and loan agreement with United Summit Power Company Ltd (USPC).

As a result of the deal, IPDC will hold ten per cent equity share, amounting 600,000 US dollar, of USPC and will offer it a credit package of one million US dollar. It is IPDC's first investment in local private sector power generation.

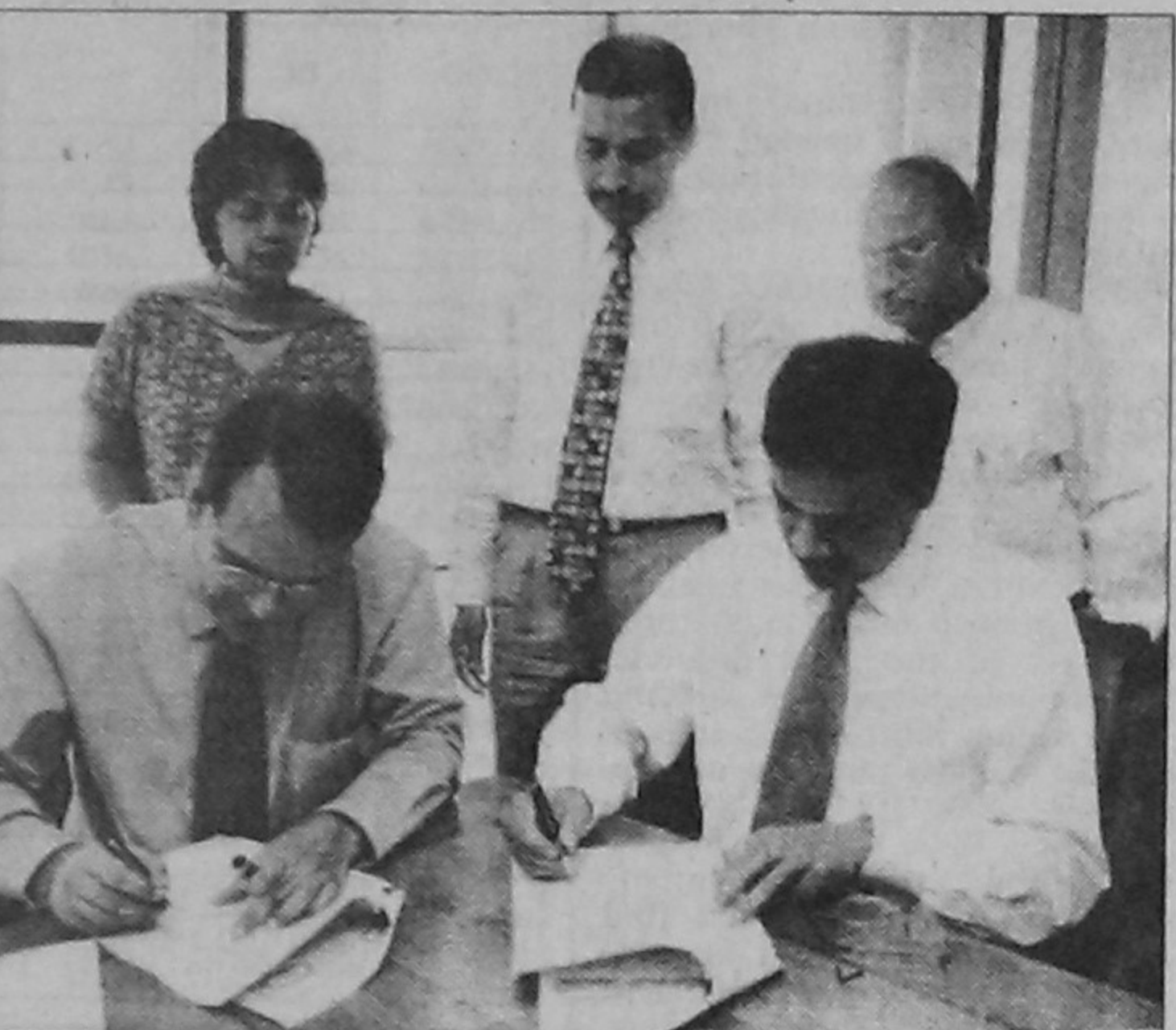
USPC chairman Muhammad Aziz Khan and IPDC Managing Director Chaklader M Alam signed the agreement on behalf of their respective companies at Summit Centre in the city.

Summit, the first domestic private sector company, is building three 11 MW power

plants - Dhaka-1 in Savar, Comilla-1 in Chandina and Narsingdi-1 in Madhabdi for the Rural Electrification Board (REB). Being the lowest bidder, USPC was given the responsibility of the three land-based private sector power plants in February this year. The projects are expected to be completed by December 2000.

The USPC chairman disclosed that REB has already taken decision in favour of USPC for building three more such plants at Tangail, Mymensingh and Narsingdi.

IPDC Managing Director said they have been investing in sectors where bank loans are not normally available. "We want to help the private sector to help in the development of the country," he said.



United Summit Power Company (USPC) Chairman Muhammad Aziz Khan and Industrial Promotion and Development Company (IPDC) Managing Director Chaklader M Alam sign an agreement on subscription and loan yesterday. As per the deal, IPDC will hold ten per cent equity share of Summit and offer USPC a credit package of one million US dollar.

—USPC photo

US Congress nears deal on poor country debt relief

WASHINGTON, Oct 19: Congressional negotiators are close to an agreement on authorising payment of the United States share of a global initiative to relieve or forgive the debts of some of the world's poorest countries, lawmakers and Congressional sources said yesterday, reports Reuters.

Under pressure from the Clinton administration and an odd coalition of religious leaders, rock stars, charity groups and politicians on both sides of the Republican-Democratic divide, Congressional appropriators recently have moved closer to approving \$435 million over two years to meet US debt-relief obligations.

"They have had discussions and they feel like they have an agreement, or they're very close to an agreement on the debt issue of Third World countries," Senate Republican leader Trent Lott said he was "hesitant" about supporting the accord, but added that it was a compromise between Congressional and White House negotiators now labouring to hammer out differences over several appropriations bills and reach an overall agreement to complete the federal budget.

Congressional support for the measure would be a triumph for the Clinton administration, which has pressed Capitol Hill for months to authorise payment of the United States share of the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative (HIPC), which aims to ease the crippling debt burdens of some 41 of the most impoverished nations on earth.

Congress had balked at appropriating the full amount, with the House setting aside some \$225 million and the Senate just \$75 million in two different versions of a \$14.9 billion foreign operations spending bill now being reconciled in a bicameral conference.

The final bill, and any debt-relief allocation, will still have to be approved by the full House and Senate.

But the high-profile debt write-off, intended to break a seemingly endless cycle of poverty that has plagued some Third World countries from Mozambique to Bolivia, has ignited the public imagination and become a cause politicians have found hard to resist.

Pope John Paul II made debt relief one of the goals for the Holy Year 2000 and rock star Bono of the Irish band U2, who has helped to popularise the cause, stood alongside IMF and World Bank leaders at a meeting in Prague last month, calling the current debt structure an "obscenity."

In the United States, liberal lawmakers, charities and religious groups who gave early support to the debt initiative have been joined by prominent conservatives like religious broadcaster Pat Robertson, Utah Republican Sen. Orrin Hatch and Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush.

Congressional aides said Bush's support, which he declared during his second televised debate with Democratic rival, Vice President Al Gore, had a major effect in swaying opinion among lawmakers to approve the full debt-relief allocation.

The New York Times quoted Alabama Republican Representative Sonny Graham, the chairman of the House subcommittee that controls the foreign aid budget, as saying, "The debt relief issue is now a speeding train."

Not all lawmakers are convinced. Texas Republican Sen. Phil Gramm denied that any debt deal had been finalised and cautioned against relief for governments with records of corruption or human rights abuses.

"I know of no agreement, nor can I find anybody who made it," Gramm told Reuters. As chairman of the Senate Banking Committee, Gramm plays a key role in deciding whether Congress should grant and IMF request to revalue some of its gold reserves to free up funds for debt relief.

In a Senate speech he set out four major conditions which he said the IMF should insist on before granting relief to heavily indebted governments. "I'm willing to go along with the debt forgiveness... if I know the money is not going to be squandered, stolen, or used to abuse the very people we are trying to help," Gramm said.



Picture shows the joint BTI-DBH client relationship evening held in the city on Tuesday.

Trade, DPRK, human rights key issues at ASEM meet

2-day economic summit begins today

SEOUL, Oct 19: As European Union and Asian leaders gathered for a two-day summit about closer economic and political ties, non-governmental groups urged them on Thursday not to forsake human rights in their pursuit of free-trade and investment achievements, reports AP.

When the global economic summit begins Friday, the 15 EU leaders are expected to endorse the efforts of South Korean President Kim Dae-jung to improve relations between his democratic country and the communist North, and to work toward their eventual reunification.

Several EU nations plan to end their diplomatic boycott of North Korea, and the EU head office is ready to provide 20 million euros (\$17 million) for North Korean farmers. In recent years, it spent 180 million euros (\$153 million) in humanitarian aid to North Korea.

At the same time, US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright plans to fly to North Korea on Sunday to continue to

improve those two countries' relations and to prepare for a visit by President Bill Clinton to Pyongyang.

Ahead of the latest biennial Asia Europe Meetings, known as ASEM, the 15 European Union and 10 Asian nation heard contrasting views about the merits about global trade.

Speaking in Hong Kong on Wednesday, EU External Relations Commissioner Chris Patten said "all will benefit" from a more open global trading system. He urged China and Vietnam to speed up their efforts to join the World Trade Organisation.

But on Thursday, the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, which represents labour unions in 145 nations, urged the leaders to stop selling Asia to corporations as a "no-strike" cheap labor area.

"Millions of women and men have yet to regain decent employment opportunities in the aftermath of the Asian crisis," of 1997-1998, it said. The Asian Development Bank reported

recently that 900 million Asians live on less than one dollar a day.

"Human Rights Watch" said that trade and economic cooperation would clearly be easier if European and Asian countries cooperated more in combating rights violations such as trafficking of women, forced labor, attacks on opposition activists and ethnic minorities across Asia.

"The Asian economic crisis taught us that agreements to expand trade and investment are not enough to ensure progress. You also need transparency, accountability, and the rule of law," Human Rights Watch said in a statement.

ASEM includes China, Japan, South Korea, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, Brunei, the Philippines, France, Germany, Britain, Italy, Spain, the Netherlands, Belgium, Sweden, Finland, Denmark, Portugal, Greece, Austria, Ireland and Luxembourg. Four leaders will not attend

this year's summit, including Philippine President Joseph Estrada, who is facing an impeachment complaint in Manila related to illegal gambling allegations. The other three are the premiers of Vietnam, Greece and Belgium.

The 25 nations represent more than one-third of the world's total trade. Two-way trade has been recovering from the shock of the 1997 financial crisis that swept Asian economies and forced EU exports to tumble.

Last year, those exports grew 9.4 per cent to 96.8 billion euros (\$ 81.3 billion). Imports from East Asia rose 8.6 per cent to a record 191.2 billion euros (\$160.6 billion), making the region the biggest exporter to the EU, ahead of the United States.

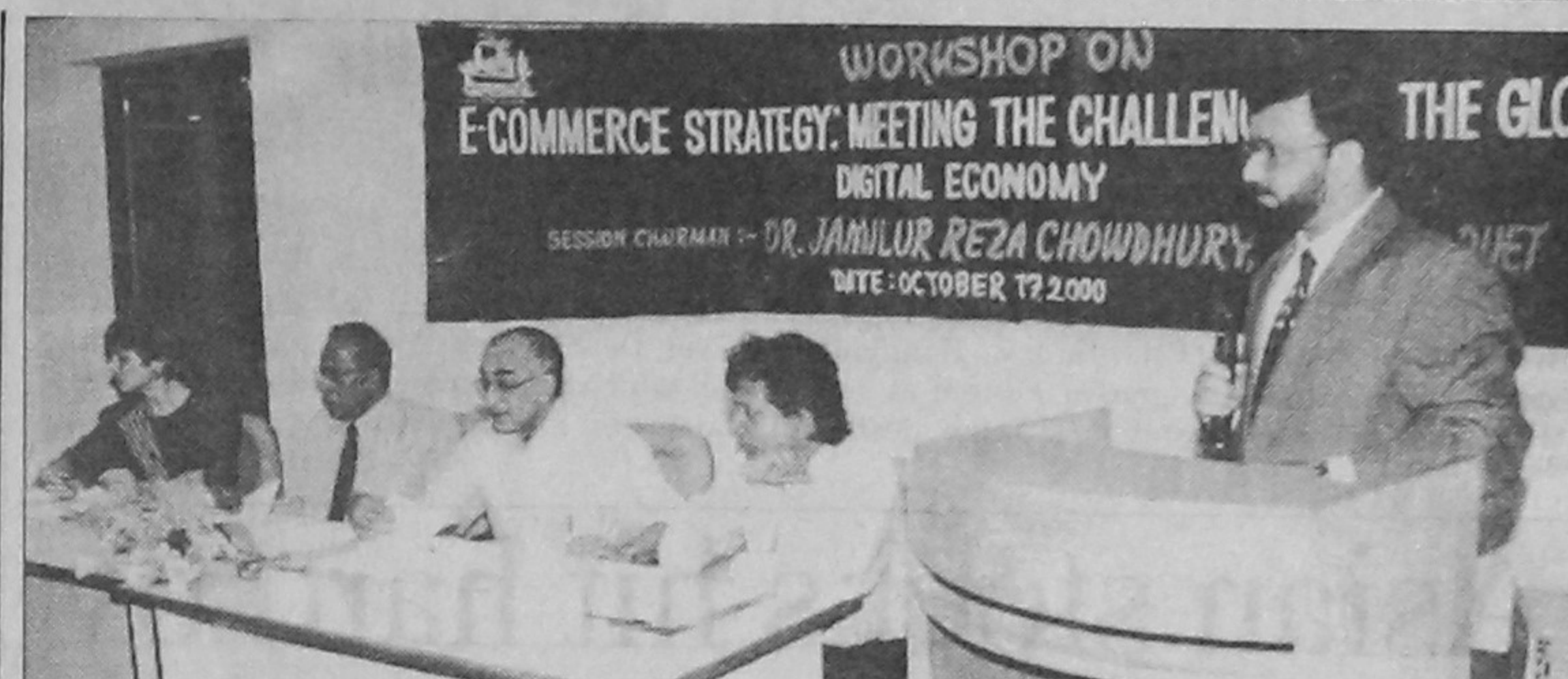
Patten said that Europeans were keen to put security issues high on the agenda. The two sides share such concerns as illegal immigration, drug production and trafficking, organized crime and humanitarian crises.

Singapore sets up \$17m plan to boost e-commerce growth

SINGAPORE, Oct 19: Singapore officials on Thursday announced the launch of a 30 million Singapore dollar (\$17 million) programme to boost the country's use of electronic commerce, says AP.

The plan, which starts Dec 1, will help Singapore become a "major international e-business hub," a government statement said.

The programme offers up to 20,000 Singapore dollars (\$11,380) to companies that want to buy e-commerce hardware and software, and up to 500,000 Singapore dollars (\$284,600) to firms that already use e-commerce.



Ahmad Tabshir Choudhury, First Vice President and Head of IT, Southeast Bank Limited, presents a keynote paper on "Preparedness of banks in Bangladesh in supporting e-Commerce" at a workshop organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) on Tuesday. Picture also shows (from left) Atique E Rabbani, Prof Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Session Chairman, AM Mobasher, acting President of DCCI, and Sabine Meitzel, representative from International Trade Center (ITC), Geneva, Switzerland.

Sugarcane crushing starts today

Sugarcane crushing in country's sugar industries begins today with the launching of production in North Bengal and Natore Sugar Mills, says UNB.

production in 13 other sugar mills under Bangladesh Sugar and Food Industries Corporation (BSFIC) will begin in phases, said a BSFIC press release.

BSFIC has set a target to produce 1.50 lakh mts of sugar for which 16.78 lakh mts of sugarcane will be made available in the sugar mills for crushing this season.

ECB leaves rates unchanged after its policy meet

PARIS, Oct 19: The European Central Bank left key interest rates unchanged Thursday after a meeting of the ECB's governing board in Paris, reports AP.

The central bank, which decides monetary policy for the 11 countries using the euro single currency, last raised its key interest rate by a quarter percentage point to 4.75 per cent on Oct 5.

Most analysts had not expected the ECB to move on rates at this meeting, despite the euro's weakness on currency markets and rising inflation in the euro-zone.

The ECB governing board met in Frankfurt, Germany, hoping to raise its visibility and counter criticism that its decision-making process lacks transparency.

The ECB has raised interest rates six times this year, in an attempt to bolster the euro, which has lost around 29 per cent of its value since it was launched in January 1999.

Usually, interest rate rises boost the local currency and tend to cool inflation, but so far the euro is still languishing against the dollar and there are signs of inflation pressures building in the euro-zone, aggravated by higher oil prices.

The last interest rate hike came after the ECB and its US, Canadian, Japanese and British counterparts intervened on the currency markets on Sept. 22 in a bid to boost the ever-ailing euro. It did recover but the rally was short-lived.

With few expectations of a rate rise, attention at Thursday's meeting was focused on ECB President Wim Duisenberg, whose comments on the likelihood of currency market intervention earlier this week sent the euro plunging south.

Duisenberg told The Times of London that it would not make sense for central banks to intervene if war in the Middle East triggered sharp movements in exchange rates.

His comments seemed to rule out further intervention to support the faltering euro.

The interview, which was published Monday, stunned markets, more used to cagey, tight-lipped central bankers in the mould of US Federal Reserve Chairman Alan Greenspan.

The euro plunged again during US trading on Wednesday, hitting an intraday low of 83.24 on lack of confidence and

a rebound in US stocks. The lingering effect of Duisenberg's comments also weighed on the embattled currency.

Duisenberg's every word were sure to be scrutinized at a news conference scheduled after the ECB meeting. Currency traders will want to see what, if anything, he says about intervention and future monetary policy in the euro-zone.

Despite Duisenberg's remarks to The Times, some say currency intervention by the ECB in the short-term cannot be ruled out.

"Mr. Duisenberg committed an error. He spoke like an economics professor and not like the head of a central bank,"

said a market analyst.

He added that the ECB's intervention in the short-term cannot be ruled out.

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Seminar on MCSE-2000 in city today

Star Business Report
A seminar on "Microsoft Certified Systems Engineer (MCSE-2000)" will be held at IERST campus at Dhanmondi at 4.30 this afternoon.

Iqra Systems and Software (an affiliate of the Institute of Education, Research, Science and Technology-IERST) will organise the seminar at free of cost, said a press release.

The seminar will elaborate present benefits of MCSE-2000 over MCSE of NT 4.0 old track and its significance.

For the first time in the country, Iqra will start MCSE-2000 courses from October 26.

M Anwarul Haque, one of very few Microsoft Certified Trainers (MCT), will conduct the course.

DCCI workshop on e-commerce held in city

A workshop on "E-commerce Strategy: Meeting challenges of the global digital economy" was organised by The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry at the DCCI seminar room on Tuesday, says a press release.

Dr Jamilur Reza Choudhury, Professor of BUET and former Advisor to the caretaker government, was the session chairman.

Two keynote papers on "E-commerce - The new way of doing business" and "Preparedness of banks in Bangladesh in supporting e-commerce" were presented by Atique E Rabbani, Convenor of DCCI IT and Ahmad Tabshir Choudhury, First Vice President and Head of IT, Southeast Bank Limited, respectively.

AR Azimul Haque, Director of ISN, Rizwan Bin Farouq, Executive Director of Aptech, Atique E Rabbani, Secretary General of Bangladesh Computer Society and Mridha M Nurul Huda, Senior Product Analyst of Standard Chartered Bank, were the designated discussants at the workshop. Dr Sarah S Meitzel and Ms Sabine Meitzel, two experts from ITC and WTO Geneva, also took part in the discussions.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
স্থানীয় সরকার, পল্লী উন্নয়ন ও সমবায় মন্ত্রণালয়
স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ
আপনার পরিবেশ সুন্দর ও পরিচ্ছন্ন রাখুন
আপনার শিক্তিকে টিকা দিন

নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ঢাকা সিটি কর্পোরেশনের ট্রাফিক ইঞ্জিনিয়ারিং বিভাগের নিম্নে বর্ণিত পদসমূহ সরকারী বিধি মোতাবেক প্রদেয় পদের পার্শ্বে উল্লিখিত সাকুলো (Consolidated) বেতনে ঢাকা আরবান ট্রান্সপোর্ট প্রকল্পের আওতায়ীন প্রকল্প মেয়াদকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত সম্পূর্ণ অস্থায়ী ভিত্তিতে নিয়োগের জন্য প্রকৃত বাংলাদেশী নাগরিকদের নিকট হইতে দরখাস্ত আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্রঃ নং	পদের নাম	বয়স	সাকুলো বেতন	শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা
১।	ট্রান্সপোর্ট ইকোনমিস্ট	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বয়স	৬,৪৩৫/-	বীকট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে অর্থনীতি বিষয়ে সমমানসহ স্নাতকোত্তর ডিগ্রিধারী (কমপক্ষে ২য় শ্রেণী)। বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ১ম শ্রেণী প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীদের আধিকার দেওয়া হইবে।
২।	সহকারী প্রকৌশলী (ট্রাফিক সিগন্যাল)	অনুর্ধ্ব ৩০ বয়স	৬,৪৩৫/-	বীকট বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় হইতে বিদ্যুৎ কৌশলে স্নাতক ডিগ্রি থাকিতে হইবে। বাস্তব অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন ১ম শ্রেণী প্রাপ্ত প্রার্থীদের আধিকার দেওয়া হইবে।

শর্তাবলী

- ১। প্রার্থীর নাম ২। পিতা/স্বামীর নাম ৩। জন্ম তারিখ ৪। বর্তমান ঠিকানা ৫। স্থায়ী ঠিকানা ৬। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতা ও অভিজ্ঞতা (যদি থাকে) ৭। ধর্ম ৮। জাতীয়তা ইত্যাদি উল্লেখসহ সাদা কাগজে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীকে সোধোদনপূর্বক আবেদন করিতে হইবে।
- আবেদনপত্রের সহিত অবশ্যই ১। শিক্ষাগত যোগ্যতার সনদপত্রসমূহের সত্যায়িত অনুলিপি ২। জাতীয়তার সনদপত্র ৩। দুই কপি চারিত্রিক সনদপত্র (প্রথম শ্রেণীর কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত) ৪। সাম্প্রতিককালের ২ (দুই) কপি পাসপোর্ট সাইজের ছবি।
- আবেদনপত্র আগামী ৩১-১০-২০০০ তারিখ অপরাহ্ন ৫.০০ টার মধ্যে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে পৌছাইতে হইবে।
- প্রার্থীকে কোন প্রকার চিত্র/ডিএ প্রদান করা হইবে না।
- চাকরির প্রার্থীদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের মাধ্যমে আবেদন করিতে হইবে।
- অভিজ্ঞ ও উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদের জন্য বয়স শিথিলযোগ্য।
- কৃতিপূর্ণ বা অসম্পূর্ণ আবেদনপত্র কোন কারণ দর্শনাে বাতিলকৃত হইতে বাতিল বলিয়া বিবেচিত হইবে।
- প্রাথমিক বাছাই-এর পর কেবলমাত্র উপযুক্ত প্রার্থীদের নামের তালিকা নগর ভবনস্থ প্রকল্প পরিচালকের দপ্তরে নোটিশ বোর্ডে ০২-১১-২০০০ তারিখে টানাটানি দেওয়া হইবে এবং উক্ত প্রার্থীদের নির্বাচনী বা সাক্ষাৎকারের জন্য কার্ড ইস্যু করা হইবে।
- সাক্ষাৎকার গ্রহণের সময় সকল প্রকার মূল সনদপত্র অবশ্যই সংগে আনিতে হইবে।
- মুক্তিযোগ্যদের সন্তান বা পোষাদের স্বপক্ষে প্রয়োজনীয় সনদপত্র দাখিল করিতে হইবে।
- পদের নাম খামের উপর স্পষ্টভাবে লিখিতে হইবে।
- এই নিয়োগ বিজ্ঞপ্তি প্রচারের কারণে কর্তৃপক্ষ নিয়োগ প্রদান করিতে কিংবা কার্ড ইস্যু করিতে বাধ্য থাকিবে না।

মোহাম্মদ সাখাওয়াত হোসেন
উপ-সচিব (পৌর)
স্থানীয় সরকার বিভাগ

সদস্য সচিব, বাছাই কমিটি
কক্ষ নং-৬১৫, ভবন নং-৭
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা।

ডিসিসি-পিআর/১৪৮/০০-০১
তারিখ-১৬/১০