

Contribution from IT sector will flourish economy

By Staff Correspondent

Speakers at a discussion meeting yesterday said Information Technology will soon change the economic scenario of the country because of its tremendous potential. A miracle will occur in the country when Information Technology (IT) begins to contribute to the economy in full swing. Mahboob Zaman, Managing Director of DataSoft Systems Bangladesh Limited said while addressing the inaugural session of the DataSoft Software Fair 2000. Finance Minister Shah A M S Kibria, who attended the function as the chief guest called on IT entrepreneurs to include Non-Resident Bangladeshis (NRB) in the sector to share their expertise and experience for development of the sector. He said the government has allocated Taka 15 crore in this critical sector so that computer programmers can really contribute to the IT sector. The minister said, "we could have made avail of fibre optic facilities in the 90s, but the chance was missed by the then BNP government. He also warned that a section of so called IT training institutes in the country were charging fat amounts for training but delivering poor services. "We shall take action against those IT institutions," the minister warned. Motiur Rahman, Editor of the Daily Prothom Alo urged all to utilise the youth power in IT sector to achieve the best possible gain from the sector. He said the Daily Prothom Alo is now the country's highest circulating daily and it has been able to become so because of the utilisation of youth power. Prof Muhammad Zafor Iqbal, Dr Atiur Rahman, Chairman of Janata Bank and Dil Afroz Begum, Chairman of the exhibition committee among others addressed the function organised at DataSoft IT Village. The software exhibition will be open to the public from 10:00 am to 8:00 pm till tomorrow.



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina consoling flood victims at the Zila Parishad Bhaban in Satkhira yesterday. -- PID photo

FFs-people grand rally in Dinajpur tomorrow

DINAJPUR, Oct 26: The stage is set for the massive rally at Dinajpur on October 28 where freedom fighters, common masses, political and cultural activists will converge to renew their pledge to foil conspiracies of the opposition alliance to destroy democracy and jeopardise the country's independence, reports BSS. Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina is expected to attend the rally as chief guest to be held at the historic Gora Shaheed Maidan at 2 pm on the day. A batch of 3,000 war veterans carrying national flags and wearing T-shirts inscribed with the slogan-Joy Bangla and Joy Bangladesh will give a guard of honour to the country's symbol of independence and sovereignty-Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina at the Dinajpur rally. The guard of honours will be conducted by a member secretary of Sammilita Muktojoddha Front (SMF) Mahabubuddin Ahmed Birbikram. The main significance of the mass contact programme in the northern region is that the progressive, democratic political parties including Awami League, JSD, CPB, BSD, NAP, Ganu Forum, freedom fighters bodies, intellectuals and social and cultural groups have joined the movement against razzakars and enemies of democracy.

Bangabandhu Murder Case

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Bangabandhu before scheduled time. The orgy of bloodbath started with the slaying of Sheikh Kamal on the ground floor, and Major Huda also killed Kamal, the prosecution counsel told the court, quoting the eyewitness account. "Major Huda first shot Sheikh Kamal in front of the reception room and as he (Kamal) jumped inside the room, the major again fired on him leaving him dead," Serajul Haq contended in his submission. Mohammad Selim, PW-3 who was the cook of Bangabandhu, was sleeping beside the door of Bangabandhu's bedroom and he woke up hearing sound of door opening by the leader late in the fateful night. Advocate Serajul Haq said Bangabandhu went downstairs wearing lungi and genji and Begum Mujib sent Selim with his punjabi and spectacles. Mujib wore punjabi and spectacles in the reception room while precautionary shots were being fired at the house. He then was trying to get somebody over telephone through telephone operator Muhit when a fire hit the window. Muhit was injured. Bangabandhu and Selim sat down while Muhit lay down on the floor. Firing stopped for a short while when Bangabandhu again went to first floor and closed the door while Sheikh Kamal went downstairs and was gunned down. Two persons in black dress shouted entering the Bangabandhu house: "Surrender everybody, wherever you are." Advocate Serajul Haq yesterday gave this vivid description of the killing operation citing the prosecution depositions as hearings on the death reference case picked up. A group of army soldiers led by Major Mohiuddin went upstairs and picked up Bangabandhu towards staircase while the leader shouted: "What do you want, don't get disoriented." As he put one step on the staircase, major Bazul Huda and Nur Chowdhury, standing on the base of the stairs, fired on Bangabandhu from stenguns. He fell dead there. According to witness Selim, prior to shooting the leader, Huda and Nur shouted something in English and Major Mohiuddin and others stood aside from Bangabandhu. But Selim cannot say what the meaning of the English word was. Prosecution counsel Serajul Haq pointed out before the High Court bench that the killers rected and implemented their pre-plan. After killing Bangabandhu and his son Sheikh Kamal, Huda, Nur and Mohiuddin came out of the residence while Lt Col Aziz Pasha and Havildar Moshazzam and their associates went upstairs trying to bring Begum Mujib, Sheikh Naser, Sheikh Russel and Rama to the ground floor. However, seeing the body of Bangabandhu, Begum Mujib screamed and returned to her bedroom. Taking stengun from Moslemuddin, Aziz Pasha entered the room of Begum Mujib where wives of Sheikh Jamal and Kamal were present. "Pasha killed them," advocate Serajul Haq told the court. Sheikh Russel and Sheikh Naser were brought downstairs while Russel was crying to go to her mother. Coming down from upstairs Pasha gave a connotative order to Moslemuddin: "Take him to his mother." Havildar Moslemuddin went upstairs with Russel. Shortly the Havildar returned and said: "All are finished," Advocate Serajul Haq restated this quoting PW-4. The prosecution counsel said in such a way the killers ended their killing operation. Finishing the orgy, the killers informed their successful operation message through a wireless. Who received the message remained a conundrum. Advocate Haq will continue his submission before the death reference bench of the High Court comprising Justice Ruhul Amin and Justice A B M Khairul Haq on next opening day of the court on Sunday

Army discards legacy

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being called a General. After the gazette notification, a Brigadier General will be called General. "This will give us a psychological boost," commented a Brigadier. Seeking anonymity, a senior officer said the change has been suggested by the Army Command to bring Bangladesh forces participating in UN peace-keeping operations at par with those from western armies. "It is a move to harmonise and synchronise the operational structure," said another officer. Bangladesh will be the first country in the Sub-Continent to make such changes. The change will also cover all other ranks (ORs). A Sepoy will be called a Sainik, Naik will be Corporal, Lance Naik will be Lance Corporal. Havildar will be Sergeant and Naik Subedar will be called Warrant Officer. Bangladesh Navy and Air Force is already following the American pattern to a large extent.

Irrigation scenario dismal

Speakers tell BIDS seminar

By Staff Correspondent

Although it may be difficult to believe, the reality of the situation is that even after putting in 65 percent of its total agricultural budget for irrigation and water control sub-sector for years together, the share of publicly provided irrigation in Bangladesh stands at a dismal 4.1 percent. This was revealed by speakers in a seminar held at the auditorium of leading local think-tank Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) in the city yesterday. They said, farmers managed to fulfill their irrigation needs under private initiatives while big public sector irrigation facilities languished in the absence of proper maintenance. "This reflects how inefficient we are," remarked the key speaker Raisuddin Ahmed while giving a speech on 'Agricultural Performance under Different Institutional Settings: A Comparative Study of Bangladesh and Vietnam'. Allocating the same level of resources for agriculture, Vietnam succeeded in giving wider irrigation coverage to its cultivable land whereas Bangladesh's performance has been appalling, noted Raisuddin, a Bangladeshi researcher with the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) headquartered in Washington DC. Vietnam and Bangladesh got 63 and 65 percents respectively of their total agricultural budget allocated for irrigation and water control sub-sector. In return, Vietnam provides 100 percent of irrigation facilities under public sector while Bangladesh could cover only a dismal 4.1 percent, the seminar was told. Raisuddin apart, other researchers attending the BIDS seminar yesterday blamed Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) for a miserably poor performance. They said, performance of public sector irrigation had faults right from the beginning from structure designing to planning, from implementation to maintenance. Quazi Shahabuddin, a research director of BIDS, was very critical about the 'vicious circle' of public sector irrigation system. "Poor operation of public sector irrigation facilities leads to poor service and poor service leads to poor cost-recovery," explained Shahabuddin, adding that "if farmers can bear the costs for their privately run irrigation pumps, there is no reason why they should not contribute in public sector irrigation." But first of all, he wanted reform in the operation and maintenance of irrigation facilities and their services within the reach of farmers. In his speech, Raisuddin gave some comparative figures of Vietnamese and Bangladeshi agriculture. He argued that institutions like strong local government bodies pushed Vietnam to the status of a major rice-exporting country within a decade. Vietnam brought 70 percent of its 'rice-land' under irrigation coverage only through public sector initiatives, whereas Bangladesh's irrigation coverage is only 30 percent and that again mainly because of the private initiatives of farmers. President of Bangladesh Economic Association Dr Mainul Islam, BIDS researcher Dr Binayak Sen were, among others, who took part in discussion at the seminar chaired by BIDS director general Dr Abu Abdullah.

BNP now plans

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ing at Paltan Maidan. However, permission was not given for use of Paltan Maidan as the meeting venue. Sadek Hossain Khoka told this correspondent that the BNP delegation which met the City AL chief and Mayor reported to him that his (Mayor) attitude was not positive. In reply to a question, he said the party high command would shortly take a decision in this regard. Some other party leaders said although BNP is firm to hold the public meeting, it wants to avoid a confrontation with the ruling party. They said party leaders would try their best to persuade the government to allow BNP to hold the meeting at Paltan Maidan or Manik Mia Avenue. "If the government does not allow, it would mean that it wants a confrontation," one leader said. A BNP policy maker said, "The opposition will have no alternative but to go for a tougher action programme if the government prevents the alliance from hold its grand public meeting on November 7." He confirmed that there would be no hartal or any other tougher programme before November 7. "First we will see the government action and then go for counter action," he added. Some sources however said BNP hardliners and a section of leaders of the three other component parties of the alliance are 'very much interested' to launch a tougher action programme before November 7 even if it leads to a confrontation with the government. "It is wise to go for such a programme right at the moment to protest the government's refusal to allow holding of the November 7 meeting at Paltan Maidan," a hardline leader said. BNP policy makers are yet to discuss the issue with party chief Khaleeda Zia because of her illness and hoped to talk with her soon to finalise the strategy and action plan ahead of the November 7 programme

Two murdered

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Kashem's wife Firoza Begum said that he came out of their residence at Mirpur Section 10 at about 11 pm on Wednesday. He stayed with one of his relatives at Babupura sum. Ripon, Mamun and Babu called him out from there and killed him, she claimed. Guards of IBA Bhaban said that they heard screaming at about 2:30 am yesterday. Police recovered the undressed body of Kashem from near the IBA Bhaban at about 4 am yesterday and sent it DMCH morgue for autopsy. Kashem was arrested on charges of mugging about two years back but was released on bail on September 11. Kashem was the father of three sons and two daughters. Ramna police filed a case as none of Kashem's relatives filed any case in connection with the killing. Dhaka University authorities yesterday suspended four night guards of IBA who were on duty on Wednesday night and formed a four-member probe body headed by Pro Vice-chancellor Prof Md. Shahadat Ali to probe the incident.

Myanmar troops kill 5 Indian soldiers

NEW DELHI, Oct 26: Five Indian soldiers were killed in the remote northeastern state of Nagaland when Myanmar troops opened fire on a patrol party near the two countries' border, a senior police official said today, reports Reuters.

Biman

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be retained by Biman till the 'strategic partner' becomes a stake holder and decides which type of aircraft it would like to operate - DC-10-30, Airbus A 340 or Boeing-777. The process of restructuring is scheduled to be completed by January next year and a deal with a 'strategic partner' is likely by March. They say, the DC-10-30 aircraft can be converted to air freighters or leased profitably to other airlines. Biman currently faces a serious problem in carrying cargo due to space in aircraft. They also pointed out that the credit resulting from the deal will create more pressure on Biman's liquidity as it is still paying for the two Airbus A 310 aircraft, purchased in 1996 directly from the manufacturer. However, defending the proposed deal, a Biman official said the airline needs to upgrade its fleet to compete in the international market. "Fleet planning has to be done in advance because you do not get an aircraft from the show room," the official said preferring anonymity. "It would rather enhance the prospects in finding a strategic partner", he added.

Japan

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that their aid money is used more efficiently and more effectively, in aid receiving countries such as Bangladesh," said team leader Shirakawa. The net disbursement of Japan's ODA to Bangladesh rose to the tune of 4.6 billion US dollars in 1998, Dhaka is also the largest recipient of Tokyo's bilateral aid. Japan's assistance under ODA has mainly been targeted for poverty alleviation. However, four areas, namely infrastructure building, agriculture, social sector and disaster control have received major focus. Observing that the public was becoming more critical about overseas official assistance, the Japanese team leader said, "As a result, we have decided to improve the method of the ODA system. We are going to apply the new method of assistance plan to Bangladesh first." The new aid evaluation process will broadly involve three phases. Policy-level, project-level and programme-level evaluation, he said. Asked why Dhaka has been selected for the new criteria, the team leader said, "Later on, other recipients would be selected." He said more objective and strict method of evaluation will contribute to the continuation of further Japanese assistance

Flood forces Cambodia to defer AAPP confce

Star Report
Heavy flooding in Cambodia, the host country for this year's general assembly and conference of the Association of Asian Parliaments for Peace (AAPP), has forced it to defer the annual conference for more than two-and-a-half months, sources in Dhaka said. "Now January 22 next year has been fixed as the tentative date for holding the annual conference that was scheduled to be held from 5 to 10 November in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh," said an AAPP official, adding that the host country will confirm the date later. The official said the Cambodian authorities expressed regrets for the inconveniences to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, who is currently the President of the international body. Cambodia is now being swept over by devastating floods compelling the authorities to change the schedule, he said. However, preparatory works for the conference will continue both in Phnom Penh and Dhaka. Till date, parliamentarians from some 24 Asian and Pacific nations have confirmed their participation in the conference.

Govt employees form national platform

Government employees belonging to more than 400 organisations have formed a national platform to press home their demands, a press release of the employees said yesterday. The platform titled 'Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Dabi Bastabayan Parishad' was formed last night at a meeting of the organisations including Bangladesh Sarkari Karmachari Sanghati Parishad, Bangladesh Karmachari Samannoy Parishad, Bangladesh Class Four Government Employees Association and Bangladesh Diploma Nurses Association.

Speakers stress creating awareness to lead safer life

Participants at a workshop yesterday recommended more dissemination of information among masses to create awareness for leading safer life, reports BSS. Joint UNICEF and the Government of Bangladesh programmes on women and children could help a great deal in achieving the goal of safer life through wider publications and mass-communications which have now become the most effective tools for creating awareness among people, they said. They were making deliberations in a day-long workshop on 'Next Country Programme for 2001-2005 to implement the new master plan operation of the UNICEF to focus on disadvantaged group through priorities based on girls and women held in the conference room of the Press Institute of Bangladesh (PIB) here. Referring to people's better living standard achieved during the last five years Chowdhury said information plays a significant role in the process of national development through its mass media and agencies. He emphasised accountability and transparency of the programme implementing agencies and said it requires more financial support for implementing the programmes successfully to change the living pattern of the country's mothers and children. He said Bangladesh is fully committed to ensuring children's right to survival, protection, development and participation in shaping their future. During the last five years the Ministry of Information in collaboration with UNICEF have been implementing the project 'Communication for Achieving Bangladesh's Goals for Women and Children'. The government of Bangladesh ratified the convention on the rights of children in September 1992 as active participant at the World Summit for Children and signed the World Declaration on the survival, protection and development of children.

HSBC

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make sure that no bank official loses job," said a senior BB official. "They said they would look in to the matter." The HSBC's deposit stands at Tk 23 crore now, sources said. The formal sale contract between the two sides would be signed shortly, one source confirmed. He said that the City Bank N/A was also one of the parties interested to take over the NSB operation in Bangladesh but no deal took place due to difference of opinion on some issues. The NSB head office has directed the local office to close down its businesses in Bangladesh by December 31 this year, the source mentioned. NSB began its Bangladesh operation on May 30 last year and later took over operation of the Society General, a France-based bank. In a change of policy, the Bank is now deciding to withdraw from Asia and concentrate in North America, one source said. Other sources said the decision to close its operation followed Bangladesh Bank's new policy under which a foreign bank operating in the country is required to have a minimum capital of 10 million US dollars. Some other small foreign banks also are now considering such moves, they added. The NSB Country Manager refused to talk on the issue while the HSBC Country Manager could not be contacted despite repeated attempts.

Blast kills mill worker in Narayanganj

From Our Correspondent
NARAYANGANJ, Oct 26: A worker was killed and four others were critically injured in a sudden explosion in Jamuna Steel Mills in Panchabati area in Fatulla on Wednesday noon. The dead was identified as Anwar Hossain, 35. Police said the workers were melting scrap iron in a furnace when it suddenly exploded, killing Anwar on the spot. The injured were taken to Narayanganj Hospital. A case was filed with Narayanganj PS in this connection.

Unocal explains

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dental and environment ministry, to be freshly undertaken to determine the actual environmental damage there. The joint study never took place. During that time, Petrobangla, however, gave up a claim of Tk 200 crore for the Magurchara gas reservoir damage. It did so on instruction from the top level of the government not to complicate the matter further.

Benazir

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minister said she was worth 822,528 dollar, according to NAB documents. Adam said 22,000 pages of documents have been given to the courts in Pakistan 'for determination in accordance with due process of law.' As well as properties, NAB documents charge Benazir has 11 separate bank accounts in Switzerland, one in the United Arab Emirates, five in France, five in Britain and four in the United States. The amounts in each account was not available. Benazir's Swiss accounts were frozen by the Swiss government in 1997 because of an investigation launched by the ousted prime minister Nawaz Sharif. Both Benazir and Sharif were twice dismissed from power in large part because of allegations of corruption. Sharif has been in jail since October 1999 when his government was toppled in a bloodless army coup. The military ruler, who took power, promised to weed out the corruption that had become endemic in Pakistani politics. Benazir's husband, Asif Ali Zardari, has been in jail since her last term in power came to an abrupt end in 1996 when she was dismissed by the president on charges of corruption

গার্হস্থ্য অর্থনীতি মহাবিদ্যালয়
অজিৎপুর, ঢাকা-১২০৫

২০০০-২০০১ সেশনে প্রথম বর্ষ সন্ধান ও পাস শ্রেণীর তর্তি পরীক্ষার পরিবর্তিত সময়সূচী।

অনিবার্য কারণ বশত গার্হস্থ্য অর্থনীতি মহাবিদ্যালয়ের ২০০০-২০০১ শিক্ষাবর্ষের ১ম বর্ষ স্নাতক সন্ধান এবং পাস শ্রেণীর তর্তি পরীক্ষা নির্ধারিত তারিখের পরিবর্তে নিম্নে বর্ণিত সময়সূচী অনুযায়ী অনুষ্ঠিত হবে।

তর্তি পরীক্ষার সময়সূচী

বিষয়	তারিখ ও দিন	সময়
ক) বাণা ও পুঁজি বিজ্ঞান	২৬/১১/২০০০ ইং রবিবার	সকাল ১০.০০ টা - ১১.৩০ টা
খ) পুঁজি ব্যবস্থাপনা ও পুঁজিবল	২৬/১১/২০০০ ইং রবিবার	বিকাল ১.০০ টা - ২.৩০ টা
গ) অর্থ পরিষ্কার ও বন্য নিয়ন্ত্রণ	২৭/১১/২০০০ ইং সোমবার	সকাল ১০.০০ টা - ১১.৩০ টা
ঘ) শিল্প বর্জন ও পরিবেশিক সম্পর্ক	২৭/১১/২০০০ ইং সোমবার	বিকাল ১.০০ টা - ২.৩০ টা
ঙ) ব্যবহারিক হিসাবসহ	২৮/১১/২০০০ ইং মঙ্গলবার	সকাল ১০.০০ টা - ১১.৩০ টা
চ) পাস "এ" ট্রপ	২৮/১১/২০০০ ইং মঙ্গলবার	বিকাল ১.০০ টা - ২.৩০ টা
ছ) পাস "বি" ট্রপ	২৯/১১/২০০০ ইং বুধবার	সকাল ১০.০০ টা - ১১.৩০ টা
জ) পাস "সি" ট্রপ	২৯/১১/২০০০ ইং বুধবার	বিকাল ১.০০ টা - ২.৩০ টা

(ত্রফের পরামর্শ নিন)
অর্থনীতি
গার্হস্থ্য অর্থনীতি মহাবিদ্যালয়, ঢাকা।