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The Daily Star BUSINESS

DHAKA, WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 10, 2001

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ACTL wins deal to provide IBBL with Ethernet Network System

Islami Bank Bangladesh Limited (IBBL) has signed a contract with Applied Computer Technologies Limited (ACTL) to provide high speed switched (100Base TX) Ethernet Network System for the bank's 20 branches in the country, says a press release.

Under the contract, ACTL will provide, install and commission SMC's SNMP managed switches for each branches with structured cabling system and components from ModTap that will support Gigabit Ethernet Technology - 1000 Megabits per sec Data Transmission Rate.

This integrated solution will enable IBBL branches to handle the Lan/Wan bandwidth and complex video/image and text data format required for today's e-business and web-banking application.

The branch network system designed by ACT Ltd will enable Novell's Red Book C2 Encryption Technology and Security of Data and strengthen the On-line Branch Banking automation process for IBBL.

ACTL will deliver Novell's No 1 Network Operating System Software NW5.1 integrated with Oracle 8i RDBMS database SW to enable the power of NDS e-directory, fault-tolerant reliability, network security and quality of services required for branch banking and on-line transaction processing for a robust e-business banking infrastructure.

ACT Ltd was formed in 1990 as a networking company and the business partner and distributor of Novell Inc. with a vision to connect computers and to provide total turn-key Lan/Wan high speed data communication service solutions for corporate and business enterprises.

Opsonin opts for GP mobiles

GrameenPhone Limited has signed an agreement with Opsonin Chemical Industries Limited under its Corporate Sales Package initiative.

The accord was initiated by Ferdousur Rahman, Head of Corporate Sales of GrameenPhone, and Dr Samiul Hossain, Human Resource Manager of Opsonin, on behalf of their respective organisations in the city recently, says a press release.

Kafil H S Mueed, Additional General Manager, Sales and Marketing of GrameenPhone, and Abdur Rouf Khan, Managing Director of Opsonin, were present at the signing ceremony.

Masud A Mallick, Manager of International Roaming, Abu Mamun Hashuice, Head of Special Sales of GrameenPhone, and Abdur Rakib Khan, Executive Director of Opsonin, were also present on the occasion.

Under the agreement, Opsonin has been provided with GrameenPhone's GP-GP mobile phone connections.

Opsonin is using the GP mobiles to maintain efficient communication with its factory at Barisal and its countrywide distribution system.

The GP mobiles will make Opsonin's inter-district communication much more efficient and cost-effective.

APLL purchasing GATX Logistics

APL Logistics (APLL) is purchasing GATX Logistics, which is the second largest warehouse-based contract logistics company in the United States and one of the top logistics players throughout North and South America, says a press release.

GATX Logistics is majority owned by Oak Hill Capital Partners, LP, and the Stephens Group, USA.

The US\$210 million acquisition increases APL Logistics revenues by 70 per cent or over \$300 million. Further details are undisclosed.

Computer security to cost \$3b over three years

SINGAPORE, Jan 9: Computer users will spend more than \$3 billion over the next three years on security software to combat a rise in computer-related offenses such as hacking, a computer analysis company said Tuesday, reports AP.

A report by International Data Corporation said the market for security software was set to reach \$3.397 billion in 2004, up from \$266 million in 1999, as enterprises rush to protect themselves from a rise in corporate espionage and computer hacking.

It said security breaches such as vandalised Web sites, computer viruses, information theft and denial of service at electronic commerce and support sites were the main problems for corporations.

Last year, computer viruses Melissa and the Lovebug swept the computer world and closed down infected computers.

Eskayef maintains 30pc growth over 8 years

Star Business Report

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd maintained above 30 per cent growth rate over the past eight years which is considered as a major success of the company. Eskayef is also going to expand its production base shortly.

"Due to better quality, sales of the company's products are increasing in the domestic as well as in the global market," said Latifur Rahman, Managing Director of Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, at the Annual Marketing and Sales Conference of the company held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

AM Faruque, Executive Director, M Mohibuz Zaman, Marketing Manager, Atiqur Rahman and Saifur Rahman, Directors of the company, also attended the conference.

Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd has retained its fastest growing image in Bangladesh. The company registered a Tk 62.4 crore sales in 2000, showing a growth of 33.7 per cent over the previous year. The growth of the pharmaceutical market in the country during the same period was approximately 21 per cent.

Eskayef announced a Tk 73 crore sales forecast for 2001. The company reiterated its promise of fighting against diseases and ailments by introducing newer drugs and maintaining international quality standards.

Latifur Rahman also hoped that Pepsi, an enterprise of Transcon group, would be the number one soft drink in the country this year. Pepsi achieved a major success in 2000, he said.

AM Faruque said Eskayef was able to beat its target in 2000 successfully. The production and marketing capabilities of the company will increase in the coming years, he hoped.



Latifur Rahman, Managing Director of Eskayef Bangladesh Ltd, speaks at the company's Annual Marketing and Sales Conference held at Sonargaon Hotel in the city yesterday.

S'pore named most globalised state in the world, US

12th: Survey

WASHINGTON, Jan 9: Singapore has been named the world's most globalised country according to a survey released here that measured such factors as cross-border flows of goods and services and international contacts, says AFP.

The survey, compiled by Foreign Policy magazine and consulting firm A.T. Kearney, placed the United States 12 on a list of the 20 most global nations, noting the relative infrequency with which Americans interact with the rest of the world.

"Singapore boasts high levels of trade and heavy capital flows, as well as an annual stream of international travelers nearly three times higher than the country's population."



Picture shows DeltaSoft Ltd Chairman Azam J Chowdhury, Directors Nader Khan, Din M Rana and Iqbal Mohsin Chowdhury at the first meeting of the company's Board of Directors in the city on Sunday.

Oil prices fall, consensus seen for OPEC output cut

LONDON, Jan 9: Oil prices lost some of their lustre yesterday due to technical selling as the market factored in expectations of a cut in the OPEC producer's cartel output when the group meets next week, reports Reuters.

News that Iraq oil exports may soon resume also took some steam out of the market's early enthusiasm.

At the close of trading, London's benchmark Brent blend stood 75 cents lower at \$24.43 a barrel, giving up the day's modest early gains as technical levels - including the psychologically important \$25 a barrel - were broken.

US light crude futures piled on more losses after a slide on Friday, climbing 63 cents lower

to end at \$27.32 a barrel. Despite the stumble, prices remain up from late-December lows of under \$23 a barrel after plunging some \$8 last month, when traders began to fret that an oversupplied market could lead to a price crash once winter demand wanes in spring.

The Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) Secretary-General Ali Rodriguez said on Sunday the 11-member cartel had a consensus to cut crude oil supplies but had not decided the size of the reduction.

"For the time being there is a consensus to cut but how much we don't know," the former Venezuelan oil minister told a news conference after meeting US Energy Secretary Bill

Richardson. Rodriguez said OPEC would consider the United States view that an output cut would fuel a price hike that could hurt a vulnerable US economy.

The cartel is anxious to avoid repeating the price slump of two years ago that sent oil below \$10 a barrel. OPEC heavyweight Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest crude producer, said last week it saw a consensus for a cut of 1.5 million bpd to stabilise oil prices within the cartel's target range.

Middle East producer Qatar on Monday further bolstered OPEC-led gains by backing a cut of at least two million bpd, a figure also favoured by price hawk Kuwait.



Photo shows officials of GrameenPhone and Opsonin at the signing ceremony of an agreement in the city recently.

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Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Project Manager Shadhinata Stambha Nirman Cell Public Works Department, Dhaka

Memo No. Pro-May-Sha/R/2/2001/22 Dated: 08/01/2001

1ST CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

This is for information of all concerned that the Tender Notice No. 03 (2000-2001) vide this office Memo No. Pro-May-Sha/R/2/2000/688 dated 18/12/2000 for supply and fixing of Foreign made light fittings for Museum, Exhibit area, Audio-Visual Room, Ramp, Plaza & other places in the Shadhinata Stambha Project at Suhrawardy Uddyan, Dhaka is hereby amended as follows:

The last date of receiving the tender is extended from 10/01/2001 to 18/01/2001 and the last date of selling the Tender is extended from 08/01/2001 to 16/01/2001.

All other terms & conditions remain unchanged. This corrigendum notice will form a part and parcel of the tender document.

Rezaul Islam
Project Manager
Shadhinata Stambha Nirman Cell
Public Works Department

Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against Taka to major clients.

Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying TT Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Trans-act
US Dollar	54.2500	54.2800	53.8150	53.6970	53.6250
Pound Sto	81.4293	81.4743	80.1844	80.0085	79.9013
Deutsche Mark	26.6475	26.6622	25.5946	25.5385	25.5042
Swiss Franc	33.9253	33.9250	33.1956	33.1258	33.0814
Japanese Yen	0.4898	0.4701	0.4617	0.4606	0.4600
Dutch Guilder	23.6501	23.8632	22.7157	22.6658	22.6355
Danish Krona	6.9175	6.9214	6.7723	6.7575	6.7484
Australian \$	31.3294	31.3467	29.9642	29.8985	29.8584
Belgian Franc	1.2920	1.2927	1.2409	1.2382	1.2365
Canadian \$	36.6554	36.6757	35.6155	35.5374	35.4897
French Franc	7.9453	7.9497	7.6314	7.6147	7.6045
Hong Kong \$	6.9690	6.9728	6.8661	6.8710	6.8618
Italian Lira	0.0269	0.0269	0.0259	0.0258	0.0258
Singapore \$	31.7530	31.7706	30.7620	30.6945	30.6534
Euro	52.1180	52.1468	50.5587	49.9489	49.8820
Saudi Rial	14.0050	14.5100	14.3087	14.2773	14.2582

Bill buying rates

TT Doc	30 Days	60 Days	90 Days	120 Days	180 Days
53.7512	53.3665	52.9181	52.4696	52.0212	51.1243

US dollar London Inter Bank Offered Rate (LIBOR)

Currency	1 Month	3 Months	6 Months	9 Months	12 Months	
US Dollar	5.88375	5.61625	5.41938	5.33250	5.30250	
79.9013	81.4293	GBP	5.85672	5.80016	5.69469	5.64375
6.62063	Cash/TC	EURO	4.76092	4.68438	4.57438	4.49000

Exchange rates of some Asian currencies against US dollars

Indian Rupee	Pak Rupee	Thai Baht	Malaysian Ringgit	Indonesian Rupiah	Korean Won
46.622/46.632	59.05/59.15	143.045/43.095	3.7995/3.8005	9500/9510	1254.5/1256.5

Amex notes on Tuesday's market

Moderate activity was observed in the inter-bank USD/BDT market today. There was not much change in the USD/BDT rate. The rates had remained in the previous range between 53.9600 and 53.9650 today. The call rates decreased slightly to the 5.9-6.3 per cent range because of a quieter call money market.

The euro eased from recent six-month peaks against the dollar and 10-month highs against the yen on Tuesday as profit-taking set in after its recent strong gains.

Sterling was steady on Tuesday following recent gains against the euro as.

Notice Inviting Tender of RHD

- Tender Notice No : 07-BRD/2000-2001.
- Name of work : Construction of flexible pavement by providing sub-base, base-course & seal-coat/repairing restoration of damaged part of pavement in diff km of diff roads under Road Division, Bogra during the year 2000-2001. In 04 (four) groups.
- Estimated cost : As per group list.
- Earnest money : -Ditto-
- Head of accounts : -Ditto-
- Time allowed : -Ditto-
- Eligibility of contractor : -Ditto-
- Name of offices where tender documents can be purchased : i) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi. ii) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha/Joypurhat/Lalmohirhat/Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Bogra/Sherpur.
- Name of offices where tender will be received : i) Addl Chief Engineer, RHD, Rangpur Zone, Rangpur. ii) Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi. iii) Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Rangpur/Procurement & Monitoring Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka. iv) Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bogra/Rangpur/Kurigram/Gaibandha/Joypurhat/Lalmohirhat.
- Last date of selling tender documents (within office hours) : Up to 17.01.2001.
- Date & time for receiving of tender : Up to 12-30 PM on 18.01.2001.
- Date & time for opening of tender : At 12-45 PM on 18.01.2001. box by other receiving officers.
- Date & time of opening of all the tenders by the undersigned : At 11-00 AM on 22.01.2001.
- Date & time of lottery, if required : At 11-00 AM on 25.01.2001.

GROUP LIST

Group No	Name of work with location	Head of accounts	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time allowed for completion of work	Eligibility of contractors	Remarks
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
01.	Construction of flexible pavement at 11th(P) & 12th(P) km of Frothomasew-Pirgachha Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 2000-2001	266-CA	Tk 15,80,933/-	Tk 31,619/-	45 (forty-five) days from the date of issue of work order	"A" to "D" general category of RHD	Separate tender with separate E/Money is to be submitted for each group.
02.	Construction of flexible pavement by providing sub-base, base-course & seal-coat at 5th km of Omarpur-Deogram-Talora Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 2000-2001	168-RBF	Tk 13,08,611/-	Tk 26,172/-	-Ditto-	-Ditto-	
03.	Construction of flexible pavement by providing sub-base, base-course & seal-coat at 6th km of Omarpur-Deogram-Talora Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 2000-2001	168-RBF	Tk 10,00,569/-	Tk 20,011/-	40 (forty) days from the date of issue of work order	-Ditto-	
04.	Repairing restoration of damaged part of pavement by 50% 2nd class ball & 50% sand (FM 0.50) at diff km of Omarpur-Deogram-Talora Road under Road Division, Bogra during the year 2000-2001	168-RBF	Tk 5,20,104/-	Tk 10,402/-	25 (twenty-five) days from the date of issue of work order	"A" to "E" general category of RHD	

N.B. Gr No 01 (one) to 03 (three) will be sold & received in the office of the Divisional Commissioner, Rajshahi Division, Rajshahi.

Md Jalilur Rahman Pramanik
Executive Engineer, RHD
Road Division, Bogra