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Star BUSINESS

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BB T-bill auction held

The 126th auction of the 28-day, 91-day, 182-day, 364-day, 2-year and 5-year treasury bills of Bangladesh Bank were held here yesterday, reports UNB.

A total of Tk 434 crore, Tk 100 crore, Tk 5 crore, Tk 13 crore, Tk 114 crore, and Tk 36.25 crore were offered for the 28-day, 91-day, 182-day, 364-day, 2-year and 5-year bills respectively.

Of these, Tk 264.50 crore, Tk 50 crore, Tk 13 crore, Tk 56 crore of 28 day, 91-day, 364-day and 2-year bills were accepted respectively.

The range of the implicit yields of the accepted bills were 6.38-6.59 per cent, 7.00 per cent, 7.50 per cent and 8.40-8.50 per cent per annum respectively.

The bids offered for the 182-day and 5-year bills were not accepted.

Elegant Computers in professionals recruitment deal with Axiom

Elegant Computers, a fast-growing computer hardware company, signed an agreement with Axiom Technologies Ltd, master business partner of Apteck Bangladesh Ltd, says a press release.

Under the terms of this deal Elegant Computers will be recruiting skilled professionals through the Placement Consulting Services unit of Axiom Technologies Ltd.

Maruf Ahmed, Proprietor of Elegant Computers, and Syed Mukammel Hossain, Managing Director of Axiom, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective companies.

Axiom and Apteck jointly established more than 20 network centres around the country of both Apteck Computer Education and Asset International.

Axiom is also a Microsoft-Certified Solution Provider and Technical Education Centre (CTEC). It is also a value added reseller (VAR) for Intershop Communications' e-Commerce software.

Apart from training, Axiom also provides other IT services like e-commerce solutions, production of custom-made software, web application development, etc.

Sajid-ul Haq new MD of UCBL



Muhammed Sajid-ul Haq has assumed the office of the Managing Director of United Commercial Bank Ltd.

This was decided in a meeting of the Board of Directors of the bank held recently, says a press release.

Prior to his new appointment, he was Managing Director of National Credit and Commerce Bank Ltd.

Sajid-ul Haq started banking career in the erstwhile United Bank Ltd (UBL) in 1966. He served in various capacities in Janata Bank former BCCI (overseas) Ltd., BASIC (Bangladesh) Ltd., Eastern Bank Ltd. and lately as MD of NCCB.

Born on the 7th of June, 1942, Haq completed his M.Sc from Dhaka University in 1964 prior to starting his professional career. He is a renowned banker with more than three decades of experience to his credit.

QIA training on internal audit held

The Quality Institute of America (QIA) recently conducted a two-day training programme on internal audit at Bangladesh Airlines Training Centre (BATC) at Kurmitola in the city, said a press release.

Debabrata Bank, Deputy Chief Engineer (Inspection & Quality Assurance), presided over the programme.

Senior management staff from the Directorate of Engineering, Biman, including the President, SAEB (Society of Aircraft Engineers of Bangladesh) participated in the training programme.

Regional economic co-operation confce begins in Nepal

Business leaders voice concern over SAARC summit deferment

M SHAMSUR RAHMAN, from Kathmandu

South Asian business leaders yesterday voiced concern over the deferment of the SAARC summit, saying that time has come for the governments to realise the cost of non-cooperation.

Underscoring the need for holding the summit, they said a host of issues remained suspended due to the postponement of the meet.

They said the South Asian countries now face new challenges and they need to enhance regional co-operation in the post-WTO regime.

The SAARC business communities are trying their best to promote the much needed regional co-operation, they said.

"But the private sector efforts are not sufficient. The governments will have to play their due roles," said Pradeep Kumar Shrestha, President of the Federation of Nepalese Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FNCCI), at the inaugural ceremony of the 5th SAARC Economic Co-operation Conference on "Government-Private Sector Partnership: A Strategic Alliance for 2010".

The conference was inaugurated by Nepalese Prime Minister Girija Prasad Koirala yesterday morning at Hotel Soaltze Crown Plaza in Kathmandu.

In his inaugural speech, Koirala said the conference should also discuss the political issues that stand in the way of holding the SAARC summit.

"It is important to discuss the political irritants. Nepal had been trying to host the summit and today's meeting should address these political issues which should help resolve the politics and pave the way for holding the SAARC summit," Koirala told the business leaders

of the SAARC countries attending the inaugural function.

He said the South Asian economy as a whole is competitive. However, forging co-operation among the regional economies is a challenge.

"While trade and commerce are important issues, we cannot forget that South Asia is the home to the largest concentration of people living below the poverty line," Koirala said. "Only a sustainable growth that generates opportunities for gainful co-operation can eradicate poverty from the region. To meet this challenge, the best remedy is that the government and private sector join hands to build a partnership," he said.

Koirala concluded by saying that the rapid changes which have been seen in the socio-economic arena during the last ten years indicate that the SAARC members must be prepared to build a future of their own.

Speaking on the occasion, SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI) President Qasim Ibrahim said it was generally believed in the past that development is the responsibility of the government.

"But the world is changing fast and so should our region. After decades of state domination of economic activities, many governments around the world are relying increasingly on the private sector to foster economic growth," he said.

There are a number of cross-sectoral issues relating to government-private sector partnership, he said, adding that the government should concentrate in formulating investment-friendly policies in order to pave the way for the private sector to flourish.

"The government should concentrate in planning, structuring and regulations while the private sector should specialise in management, investment, construction and financing," the SCCI president said.

He said the SCCI has arranged the conference to endorse its commitments to the importance of government-private sector partnership.

The SCCI president also said that the South Asia is a big market with a growing population, making it a huge source of production as well as consumption. "I am sure that the region can become more and more prosperous if the governments and the private sector of the region join hands and work together for mutual gains."

Speaking on the occasion SAARC Secretary General Nihal Rodrigo said that although the role of the government is said to be less pervasive and diminishing and private enterprises have been moving into new areas, it is the government which clearly continues to play the lead role.

The government and the private sector are often seen as two mutually exclusive, even adversarial groups with different agenda, ethics and methods.

The government which includes political leaders and the bureaucracy is characterised as slow, inefficient, wasteful and tied up in red tape. And the private sector is characterised as ruthless, unfeeling and driven by pure profit motive alone.

He said that the only unifying factor between the government and the private sector is corruption.

"One gives bribes and the other accepts it," he said.

FNCCI President Pradeep Kumar Shrestha also reiterated the need for government-private sector partnership, saying that it should not be confined at the national level.

The international agreements and negotiations have direct impact on the private sector, he said.

"So we also need to be consulted with as we need to know what the government's actions in the international arena," the FNCCI President said.

Agreement Signing Ceremony for Placement Consulting Services

ELEGANT COMPUTERS

and

Axiom Technologies Ltd

January 31, 2001

Maruf Ahmed, Proprietor of Elegant Computers, and Syed Mukammel Hossain, MD of Axiom, sign an agreement to recruit skilled professionals in the city Wednesday.

Bumpy ride seen ahead for SE Asian vehicle market

AFP, Singapore

Southeast Asia's vehicle market is in for a bumpy ride in the next five years due to the region's volatility, and only players with strong global partners will survive the race, analysts said.

Top global bank ING Barings warned economic and political uncertainties in the region's four biggest markets are likely to delay the time frame for the achievement of industry targets for vehicle volumes.

Vehicle manufacturers and industry experts have forecast an average compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 13.8 per cent for the region's vehicle market until 2005. Over the same period, total vehicle volumes would grow to 1.6 million.

However, ING Barings said that "although the strong vehicle growth rates projected ... are achievable, the time frame will

most likely be stretched to beyond 2005, possibly even to 2010."

It cited political and economic uncertainties in the region and concerns over Malaysia's decision to delay by two years the liberalisation of its auto industry under the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Free Trade Area, or AFTA.

"Economically across the region, we are seeing slowing domestic consumption, more rapidly in the Philippines and Thailand with early signs of peaking demand in Indonesia and Malaysia," the bank said in a report.

The four are the biggest auto markets in ASEAN, which has committed under AFTA to tear down tariff barriers to between zero and five per cent by 2003.

Malaysia has said it will delay tariff reduction in its automobile industry to 2005 to give a breather for its Proton national car.

ASEAN, which also groups Brunei, Cambodia, Laos, Myan-

mar, Singapore and Vietnam, last year approved a protocol allowing countries to temporarily opt out in sectors where they feel they need more time to prepare for full competition.

Combined new vehicle sales in ASEAN's four largest markets climbed 53 per cent in the first 11 months of 2000, but falling sales in the second half dampened the rise, marketing strategy firm Automotive Resources Asia (ARA) said in a report last month.

"Declining confidence in regional economies caused new vehicle sales in the second half of 2000 to be lower than the first half of the year," said ARA executive director John Bonnell.

Autopols, an automotive consulting firm, said in its latest quarterly review Asia's car markets face a seven per cent slump this year, reversing two years of growth as they fall victim to a US slowdown.

IIFC to help commercialise Dredger Organisation

The Infrastructure Investment Facility Centre (IIFC) and the Dredger Organisation (DO) of the Bangladesh Water Development Board (BWDB) under the Ministry of Water Resources have entered into an agreement for the provision of development services for the restructuring and commercialisation strategy of DO, a press release.

The main objectives of the agreement are to identify and develop a restructuring and commercialisation (R&C) strategy for the Dredger Organisation to promote growth in the water resources sector, improve competitiveness of the sector by mobilising strategic investment from a variety of sources.

The work to be carried out in the first phase involved enterprise assessment, investigation of market opportunities, value enhancement, legal audit and strategic action plan.

DCCI course on import & export business held

The certificate-awarding ceremony of the training course on "Building an Import and Export Business" was held at DCCI Business Institute (DBI) Wednesday, says a press release.

The course was organised by the Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) with technical and financial support of German Technical Cooperation (GTZ).

Topics included in the course were: Export & import scenario of Bangladesh, General steps for import and export procedures, Import procedures, Types of importers; Letter of credit (L/C) for imports; L/C and its types; Export policy, export performance and economic growth in Bangladesh; Export procedure & registration, Checking and advising of export L/C; Export procedure, PFC, ERF & preparation of export documents; Negotiation of export documents, Export incentives, Disputes and settlement of export claims.



The 5th Annual Conference of Prime Insurance Company Ltd was held at BIAM in the city Friday. The conference was presided over by Md. Hashmat Ali, Managing Director of the company. Picture shows Ferdous Amin, Chairman of the Board of Directors and chief guest, addressing the participants. Also sitting on the dais (from left to right) are M. Qamrul Munir, Senior Vice-president (F&A) and Company Secretary, Md. Hashmat Ali, Managing Director, Md. Muksed Ali Miah, Dy Managing Director, Aybur Rahman Sikder, Consultant, and Jesmin Akhter, Executive Vice-president of the company.

NAFTA states ban Brazilian beef

AFP, Washington

North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) member nations have suspended imports of beef and its derivatives from Brazil amid fears over bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) -- mad cow disease.

Canada, the United States and Mexico announced a temporary ban would be in place until Brazil provides BSE-risk assessment data, after three cases of scrapie -- an ailment related to mad cow disease -- were diagnosed in a herd of sheep.

Scrapie is a fatal degenerative nervous disease which afflicts sheep and goats.

Brazil's agriculture department had swiftly informed the world organization for animal health, the OIE, after the scrapie diagnosis January 12, and a herd of 305 sheep was destroyed in southern Parana state.

Canada was the first NAFTA member to announce Friday its ban on Brazilian corned beef, liquid beef extract and sliced beef in jelly, officials said.

Health Canada said it had information that cast doubt on "the

security of Brazil's import practices relating to European products of bovine origin."

The data, the health ministry said, "calls into question the effectiveness of the controls in place in Brazil concerning potential BSE risks."

Most of the incidence of BSE has so far occurred in Europe, with 11 European nations, including Spain, France and Ireland, reporting cases of BSE after the disease first struck Britain.

The United States' Agriculture Department announced a similar ban Friday, and Mexico followed suit Saturday, stating it had shut its borders to Brazilian beef and derivatives, as a "precautionary" measure.

In its statement, the USDA admitted: "There is no evidence of BSE in Brazil."

"USDA, along with appropriate federal health agencies, will continue to monitor and assess this situation and take any additional actions that may be necessary or appropriate," it said.

Scientists believe BSE is linked to variant Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, a human form of the debilitating illness.

Prime Ins holds 5th annual confce

The 5th Annual Conference-2001 of Prime Insurance Company Ltd was held at Bangladesh Institute of Administration and Management in the city on Friday, says a press release.

Ferdous Amin, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the company, inaugurated the conference as chief guest while Md. Hashmat Ali, Managing Director, presided over it.

All branch incharges and development officers of the branches of the company including departmental heads from the head office participated in the conference.

In his address, the chairman of the board of directors of the company advised the branch incharges, to work untiringly for bringing about further progress of the company in future.

In his speech, the managing director of the company said the most important achievement during the year 2000 was floating of public shares for Tk 9 crore successfully and with this the company's paid-up capital stood at Tk 15 crore. The performance of the company also shows a big jump in respect of profitability and reputation in the market.

Metal: Weekly roundup

Gold cashes in on dollar's weakness, silver shines

AFP, London

Gold prices advanced gently this week, cashing in on the weakness of the dollar following a half-point cut in US interest rates.

An ounce of gold was selling for 266.7 dollars on the spot market on Friday, from 264.75 dollars a week earlier.

Analysts said speculators who had sold the metal short were providing the upward impetus, but wondered whether demand from major gold consumer India would be affected by the earthquake in Gujarat state late last month.

Silver: Salvo, Silver prices consolidated their impressive gains of the year so far amid technical buying marking the third anniversary of US investor Warren Buffet's spectacular entry into the silver

market, but analysts feared for the price in the medium term.

An ounce of silver was going for 4.7975 dollars from 4.775 dollars last Friday.

"The concern that we have is that silver remains very much an industrial metal, more so than a precious metal, and the slowdown of the US economy may have an adverse impact on silver demand over there," said BNP Paribas precious metals analyst Charles Kernot.

Palladium and Platinum. Pause. The sister metals analyst Charles Kernot.

Base Metals: Rusting. The base metals complex fell back this week.

"The main focus has been the state of the US economy," GNI analyst Lawrence Eagles said, noting that fresh data this week

showed a sharp slowdown in US economic growth.

This weighed on demand but was offset somewhat by a 0.5-percentage-point cut in US interest rates on Wednesday, he said.

However, Eagles said it was unclear to what extent these developments had driven prices this week.

"The metals have had a life of their own" he said.

Three-month aluminium prices, which have soared in recent weeks because of supply cut backs sparked by the California energy crisis, dipped to 1,610 dollars a tonne from 1,622 on the London Metals Exchange (LME).

"Most participants feel that the current tightness will only last another couple of weeks, which is one reason why three-month metal is not moving higher."

ইনস্টিটিউট অব বাংলাদেশ স্টাডিজ

রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়

বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-১/২০০১(বাংলা)

তারিখঃ ৩১/১/২০০১

২০০১-২০০২ শিক্ষাবর্ষে এমফিল/পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির বিজ্ঞপ্তি

ইনস্টিটিউট অব বাংলাদেশ স্টাডিজ দুই বছর মেয়াদি এমফিল প্রোগ্রামে মাসিক টা. ১,৫০০/= হারে এবং তিন বছর মেয়াদি পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে মাসিক টা. ২,০০০/= হারে কয়েকটি ফেলোশিপের জন্য আবেদনপত্র আহ্বান করা হচ্ছে।

প্রার্থীদের মানবিক, সামাজিক বিজ্ঞান, আইন ও বাণিজ্য অনুষদের যে কোনো বিষয়ে এবং বিজ্ঞান অনুষদের পরিসংখ্যান, জনবিজ্ঞান, মনোবিজ্ঞান ও ভূগোল এবং বাংলাদেশের জীবন, সমাজ, সংস্কৃতি ও পরিবেশের সঙ্গে সম্পৃক্ত অন্য যে কোনো বিষয়ে স্নাতক (পাস/অনার্স) ও মাস্টার্স ডিগ্রিপ্রাপ্ত হতে হবে। এমফিল/পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির যোগ্যতা নিম্নরূপঃ

এমফিল প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে

- এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে দ্বিতীয় বিভাগে উত্তীর্ণ হতে হবে।
- স্নাতক সন্মান পরীক্ষায় অথবা স্নাতক পাস ও মাস্টার্স পূর্ব ভাগ এই উভয় পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে মোট নম্বরের ৪৫% এবং মাস্টার্স শেষ ভাগ পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে মোট নম্বরের ৫০% পেতে হবে।
- উপরে উল্লিখিত (১) ও (২) এর যে কোনো একটি শর্ত পূরণ করেন না এমন প্রার্থীকে বিশেষ বিবেচনায় কেবলমাত্র এমফিল প্রোগ্রামে (পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে স্থানান্তরযোগ্য নয়) ভর্তি করা যেতে পারে যদি তার দ্বিতীয় পর্যায় ৫ বছরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকে অথবা যদি স্নাতক কোনো জার্নালে ন্যূনতম ৩টি প্রকাশিত প্রবন্ধসহ কোনো গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানে ১ বছরের গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকে।
- এমফিল প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তি হতে যে সব প্রার্থীর এসএসসি বা এইচএসসি-র যে কোনো একটিতে তৃতীয় বিভাগ আছে, তাদের ক্ষেত্রে স্নাতক সন্মান অথবা মাস্টার্স পরীক্ষায় প্রথম শ্রেণী থাকতে হবে এবং অপরটিতেও কমপক্ষে ৫০% নম্বর থাকতে হবে।
- এমফিল/এস. এম এমফিল/চার ও বিএসসি (ইন্ডিয়ানাইজ) পরীক্ষায় মোট নম্বরের ৫০% ভাগ থাকলে এমফিল প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন করা যেতে পারে।

পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদনের ক্ষেত্রে প্রার্থীকে

- ক) এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে দ্বিতীয় বিভাগসহ উভয় পরীক্ষায় ৫০% নম্বর থাকতে হবে এবং সন্মান ও মাস্টার্স পরীক্ষায় অন্ততঃ ৫০% যে কোনো একটিতে ১ম শ্রেণী থাকতে হবে এবং সেখানে অপরটিতে কমপক্ষে ৫০% নম্বরসহ দ্বিতীয় শ্রেণী থাকতে হবে।
- প্রার্থীর এমফিল/সন্মানের ডিগ্রি থাকতে হবে।
- বিশ্ববিদ্যালয়/কলেজ শিক্ষক ও গবেষণা প্রতিষ্ঠানে গবেষণারত আবেদনকারীর এবং সরকারী/আধাসরকারী/স্বায়ত্বশাসিত প্রতিষ্ঠান থেকে বৃত্তিপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণের ক্ষেত্রে দুটি গবেষণা প্রকাশনাসহ ৫ বছরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা ৫ বছরের গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকলে এবং মাস্টার্স পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ৫০% নম্বর থাকলে উল্লিখিত ১(ক), ১(খ) শর্ত শিথিল করে বিশেষ বিবেচনায় সারসরি পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন বিবেচনা করা যেতে পারে।

টা. ১০০/= (একশত) নগদ অথবা সমপরিমাণ টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অবশ্যই আইবিএস সচিবের অনুমোদিত অগ্রাধিকার, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখায় প্রদেয়) জমা দিয়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস থেকে আবেদনপত্র ও নিয়মাবলী ২৫শে মার্চ, ২০০১ তারিখের মধ্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থী নিজে অথবা নিজ ঠিকানা ও টা. ৪/(চার) মূল্যের ডাকটিকিট সহ সচিবের কাছে বৃত্তিপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণের ক্ষেত্রে দুটি গবেষণা প্রকাশনাসহ ৫ বছরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা ৫ বছরের গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকলে এবং মাস্টার্স পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ৫০% নম্বর থাকলে উল্লিখিত ১(ক), ১(খ) শর্ত শিথিল করে বিশেষ বিবেচনায় সারসরি পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন বিবেচনা করা যেতে পারে।

টা. ১০০/= (একশত) নগদ অথবা সমপরিমাণ টাকার ব্যাংক ড্রাফট (ব্যাংক ড্রাফট অবশ্যই আইবিএস সচিবের অনুমোদিত অগ্রাধিকার, রাজশাহী বিশ্ববিদ্যালয় শাখায় প্রদেয়) জমা দিয়ে নিম্নস্বাক্ষরকারীর অফিস থেকে আবেদনপত্র ও নিয়মাবলী ২৫শে মার্চ, ২০০১ তারিখের মধ্যে সংগ্রহ করা যাবে। প্রার্থী নিজে অথবা নিজ ঠিকানা ও টা. ৪/(চার) মূল্যের ডাকটিকিট সহ সচিবের কাছে বৃত্তিপ্রাপ্ত ব্যক্তিগণের ক্ষেত্রে দুটি গবেষণা প্রকাশনাসহ ৫ বছরের শিক্ষকতার অভিজ্ঞতা অথবা ৫ বছরের গবেষণার অভিজ্ঞতা থাকলে এবং মাস্টার্স পরীক্ষায় কমপক্ষে ৫০% নম্বর থাকলে উল্লিখিত ১(ক), ১(খ) শর্ত শিথিল করে বিশেষ বিবেচনায় সারসরি পিএইচডি প্রোগ্রামে ভর্তির জন্য আবেদন বিবেচনা করা যেতে পারে।

ইনস্টিটিউট সংক্রান্ত বিশদ বিবরণ সচিবালয় একটি পুস্তিকা নগদ টা. ৫০/= মূল্যে ইনস্টিটিউটের গ্রন্থাগারিকের নিকট পাওয়া যাবে।

জিডি-১০২

পরিচালক