

'Coming election a crucial test for democracy'

BSS, Chittagong

Canadian High Commissioner to Bangladesh David Preston has said the world was watching and hoping earnestly to see Bangladesh conduct a free, fair and peaceful election despite the "Titanic battle" between the political parties.

The forthcoming election was a crucial test for democracy in Bangladesh and violence may mar the image of the country, the Canadian envoy told BSS in an interview at a city hotel.

Since Bangladesh was firmly committed to democracy, he expected that the government would take all the measures to assure the voters free and fair polls, Preston said, adding that his country would send observers during the election.

During the interview, the Canadian High Commissioner responded to various queries about domestic politics, trade and investment, development of educational linkage, Canada-Bangladesh relationships and recent hostage drama in Chittagong Hill Tracts.

Speaking about Bangladesh's stand on various international issues, Preston said Bangladesh has played a leading role among South Asian countries in promoting cooperative attitudes towards international agreements related to arms control and human rights.

He also referred to Bangladesh's readiness in ratifying the CTBT and signing of treaties on landmines, the International Criminal Courts and UN Convention on Social and Political Rights.

He said there was widespread prevalence of illegal small arms throughout South Asia including

Bangladesh which threatened human security and the norms of democracy. But the envoy admitted that those arms were not manufactured but were trafficked into the country.

In April this year, he said, Canada will help organise a regional conference on "Small Arms in Bangladesh."

Preston who also served in Indonesia, Ghana, Australia and came to Bangladesh in September, 1999, referred to his country's world class IT (Information Technology) companies and disclosed that his country's IT companies were taking a growing interest in Bangladesh and joint ventures were springing up.

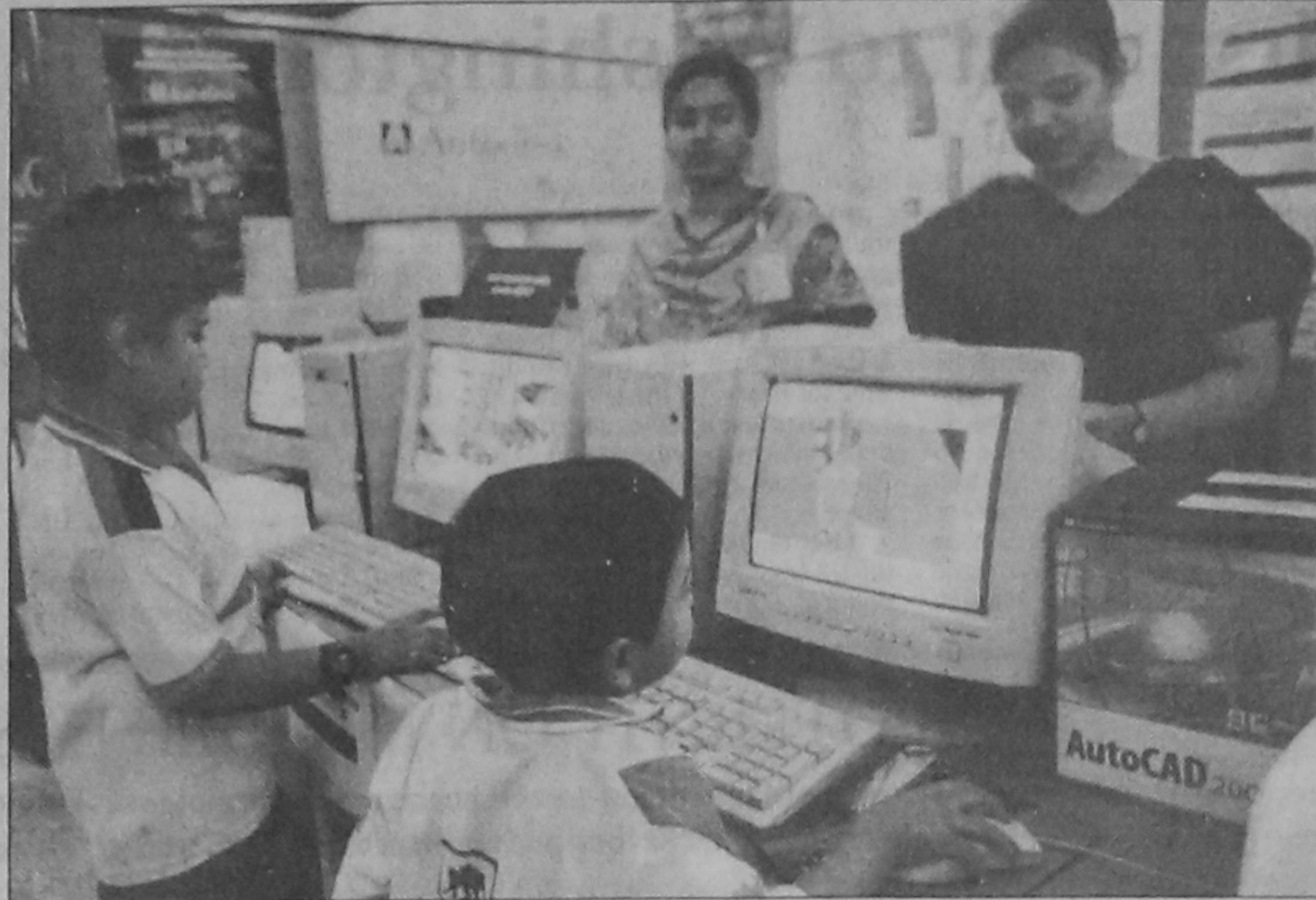
Speaking on oil and gas, the High Commissioner said a Canadian company is negotiating a joint venture to develop marginal gas fields in Bangladesh.

He said the Canadian technology applied in converting auto rickshaw engines in Bangladesh to use Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) has dramatically reduced air pollution.

Speaking about trade and investment, Preston, who spent three days in the port city, said many of the economic interests of Canada have specific references to Chittagong as a vibrant economic centre in Bangladesh.

He said Canada has provided 92 million dollar in support for Bangladesh Railways, the bulk of which went to the maintenance depot in Chittagong.

"We are also providing advice on investment in Chittagong port through an investment facilitation project funded by CIDA," he said.



Two young boys try out computers on display at the BCS Computer Fair 2001 at the Osmani Memorial Hall on the last day of the fair yesterday.

Govt urged to rehabilitate slum dwellers

BSS, Dhaka

Leaders of the Trinamul Janasangathan, representing slum dwellers of the city, urged the government yesterday to take up projects to provide shelter for the urban poor.

Addressing a press conference at the National Press Club, they also called for implementing the Bhasantek Rehabilitation Project which was taken up by the government to rehabilitate the city's

slum dwellers.

The press conference was addressed by Dr Rita Afsar of Bangladesh Institute of Development Studies (BIDS) and Trinamul leaders Abdul Khaleq Hawlader, Fatema Begum, Anwara Begum, Abdur Rashid Khan and Abdul Mannan. It was held in cooperation with Coalition for the Urban Poor (CUP), a network of 47 NGOs active in improving the life of slum dwellers in the city.

Dr Rita Afsar, a senior research fellow of BIDS, described the urban poor as active partners in development and urged the government to provide low-cost housing on long-term basis for the underprivileged.

In a memorandum addressed to Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, the Trinamul leaders said fire incidents in the slums have rendered thousands of urban poor homeless and their proper rehabilitation by the government would enable them to take part in the development process more vigorously.

BTTB plans to bring all UZs under digital phone network

UNB, Dhaka

In a bid to reach the telecommunication facility to the doorsteps of the common people, the government has taken up a programme to set up digital telephone exchanges in 92 upazilas of the country.

Under the programme, Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board (BTTB) has already brought 15 upazilas under digital telephone network.

Another 25 upazilas would be brought under digital telephone network by next month and 52 others in phases, said a BTTB press release.

Under a separate project, installation work on digital telephone exchanges in 83 other upazilas is underway. Another project is under process to bring the country's remaining upazilas under digital telephone network.

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- Prepare promotional materials to implement the strategies
- Provide training to sales team members for vaccines

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- Willing to travel extensively throughout the country
- Achievement oriented, self-motivated and hard working
- Able to work in stressful situations

Position: Business Unit Manager, Diabetes Care

Key responsibilities:

- Prepare and implement marketing plan for innovative diabetes care products including insulin and oral antidiabetic
- Lead the diabetes sales team, provide plan of action and monitor sales force activities.
- Build a strong partnership with diabetes care institutions of the country
- Launch diabetes care products and gain substantial share
- Develop appropriate strategies to achieve budgeted sales
- Prepare promotional materials to implement the strategies
- Provide training to sales team members for diabetes care products

Required qualification:

- M Pharm and/or MBA with a graduation in Science
- 2-5 years experience in product management
- Willing to travel extensively throughout the country
- Achievement oriented, self-motivated and hard working
- Able to work in stressful situations

Position: Product Executives/Officers

Key responsibilities:

- Prepare and implement marketing plan for assigned products
- Develop appropriate strategies to achieve budgeted sales of assigned products
- Prepare promotional materials to implement the strategies
- Provide training to sales team members for diabetes care products

Required qualification:

- M Pharm and/or MBA with a graduation in Science
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- Willing to travel extensively throughout the country
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Interested candidates are requested to send their own hand-written application with full bio-data along with two recent passport size photographs by **April 15, 2001** to the following address:

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All applicants must be well versed in English & computers.

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- 2) PRODUCTION OFFICER**
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 - Work experience in any industry will be given preference.
 - Factory posting in Savar.
- 3) ACCOUNTS OFFICER**
 - ICM/M.Com/B.Com in Accounting.
 - Practical experience of minimum 2 years either in industry or any commercial organisation, internal auditing experience will be added advantage.
 - Factory posting in Savar.
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Kindly apply with C.V. and recent photo attached to G.P.O. Box 2026 by 15th April 2001. All applicants are encouraged to attach a separate sheet explaining in detail why you are the deserving applicant for the post.

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