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Made-ups: Scarves, stoles, acrylic blankets, dhoties, interlinings, laces, garments accessories, etc.

Fiber: Polyester staple fiber, Acrylic fibre.

ORGANISED BY:
srtepc THE SYNTHETIC & RAYON TEXTILES EXPORT PROMOTION COUNCIL
(Set-up by the ministry of Textiles, Government of India)

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THE HIGH COMMISSION OF INDIA, DHAKA
Market Edge/ 8812713

DHAKA MONDAY JUNE 17, 2002 The Daily Star 3

METROPOLITAN

Withdrawal of import duty on computer demanded

BSS, Dhaka

Bangladesh Association of Software and Information Services (BASIS) on Saturday urged the government to withdraw proposed import duty on computer for rapid expansion of the Information Technology (IT).

A 7.5 per cent import-duty on computer, as proposed in the national budget for next fiscal beginning July 1, would discourage intending users from middle class families creating a negative impact on the desired flourishing of the much needed IT sector, the association leaders told a press conference at Dhaka Reporters' Unity (DRU) auditorium in the city.

They, however, hailed the government for allowing income tax holiday for software and IT education companies for three years and Tk 300 crore for Information and Communication Technology (ICT) and agriculture.

The BASIS president, Habibullah Karim, demanded redistribution of the equity participation fund to ensure full utilisation of the fund in computerisation of

government functions.

Tk 100 crore fund allocated for equity participation remained unutilised by Information and Communication Technology (ICT) sector in the last two years and we urge the government to reallocate the fund for bringing its activities under computerisation," they said.

The BASIS president said that proposed lowering of income tax ceiling at Tk 75,000 from Taka 100,000 will affect even entry-level IT professionals and discourage the young professionals.

"The tax net can easily be expanded by creating of computer-assisted taxpayer database while keeping the ceiling at Tk 100,000," he added.

Replying to a question Karim said the different software companies under the association have earned Tk 150 crore last year by exporting software and other IT services in 16 countries of the world.

IT expert Mostafa Jabbar, TIM Nurul Islam, Atique-e-Rabbani, Saiful Khandakar were present at the press conference.

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