

Prompt action sought to execute ICT roadmap

UNB, Dhaka
The government should adopt pragmatic policies and take prompt action for implementation of a five-year roadmap to promote information technology both in private and public sectors, said speakers at a discussion yesterday.

said former minister Dr Mizanur Rahman Shelly. A British consulting firm prepared the roadmap, and implementation of the action plan will require Tk 1000 crore in the next five years.

Addressing the seminar as chief guest, Agriculture Adviser Dr CS Karim said there must be a private-public joint initiative in place to implement the roadmap as a major portion of the plan is supposed to be implemented in the private sector.

prominent computer specialist Mostafa Zabbar, who introduced Bangla font in computer, said the government is yet to take any initiative to reduce the cost of bandwidth use for people although it has already recovered its cost from the international fibre optic cable.

Oil trades in narrow range

AFP, Singapore
Crude oil prices traded in a narrow range on Thursday in Asia after rebounding several dollars on the US government's bailout of insurance giant American International Group (AIG), dealers said.

New York's main contract, light sweet crude for October delivery, was 16 cents lower at 97.00 dollars a barrel. The contract surged 6.01 dollars to 97.16 at the close of floor trading Wednesday on the New York Mercantile Exchange.

Brent North Sea crude for delivery in November was unchanged following a gain of 5.62 dollars to 94.84 dollars Wednesday in London.

Prices traded near 90 dollars at the start of the week after US investment bank Lehman Brothers filed for bankruptcy while another Wall Street firm, Merrill Lynch, was forced to sell itself to Bank of America for 50 billion dollars.

Victor Shum, of international energy consultancy Purvin and Gertz in Singapore, said prices recovered after the US Federal Reserve on Tuesday announced an unprecedented rescue loan of up to 85 billion dollars to save AIG.

The move aimed to head off the company's collapse which was expected to lead to a global financial calamity in a crisis that grew out of the US subprime, or higher-risk, mortgage sector.

"The market got oversold a couple of days ago reacting to all this bad financial news," Shum said.

"We are bound to see a lot of volatility in oil."

Shum said oil prices had also received some support from a reduction in production and refining after recent hurricanes that hit the Gulf of Mexico.



Customers flock to an outlet of Westecs, a local brand of garment products, yesterday. It has 16 showrooms across the country, with women's items available only in four.

Westecs comes up with new women's clothes

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Westecs, a local brand of garment products, yesterday launched its 'Westecs Women Collection' in the city's Gulshan area to grab more of the local market for women's clothes.

At present, Westecs has 16 showrooms across the country, with women's items available only in four, said Tareque Aziz, chief executive officer (Retail Division) of Westecs Brand.

"From now, customers can buy women's products from four showrooms of Westecs -- Gulshan, Bashundhara, Gulshan and Dhanmondi," Aziz said.

Westecs, which started its journey in the country in 1999, is going to open its overseas branch soon, he said.

Aziz claims his brand grabbed the top position in the sales of corporate wears.

Asked, the official said all the designs are made in the Westecs design house, and

customers can buy women's suits, blazers, overcoats, shirts, formal and denim trousers, tops, leather handbags and scarves in the Westecs Women Collection.

However, the Westecs official declined to comment on sales turnover.

"I hope customers would be able to buy the garment items from Westecs centres at affordable prices," he said.

Westecs has the branches in Chittagong, Sylhet, Cox's Bazar and Moulvibazar districts.

Citibank to provide service for Adamjee EPZ investors

UNB, Dhaka

Citibank, NA will provide their banking service to the investors of Adamjee Export Processing Zone.

To this effect, an agreement was signed between the Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority and Citibank NA here recently.

Member (Investment Promotion) of Bepza Prasanta Bhushan Barua and Senior Vice President and Head of Operations and Technology of Citibank Khawja Muhammad Masum Billah signed the lease agreement on behalf of their respective organizations.

The subject outlet of Citibank, NA branch will be located in the Zone Service Complex of Adamjee EPZ from where the foreign investors will get offshore banking facilities.

China better in market economy: EU

AFP, Brussels

China has made "considerable progress" on the road to winning the coveted market economy status, the European Commission has concluded in an internal report obtained by AFP on Thursday.

"China now has in place almost all the legislation which is necessary for granting of market economy status. That is a considerable achievement," the report said.

Acknowledging China's "considerable progress" towards fulfilling the criteria necessary for winning the status, the commission said that it "remains strongly committed to working with China to achieve that."

Etcetera's new executive director



Shoma Zahid has been promoted to the post of executive director of Etcetera Bangladesh Limited.

Her new appointment is effective since July 2008, says a press release.

She has been working with the group as head of marketing and merchandising since 2006.

Etcetera Bangladesh Ltd owns and operates Coffee World, Pizza Corner and ETC outlets at different locations in Dhaka.

ACI eyes UK curry industry



ACI Consumer Brands and Bangladesh Brand Forum organised a press conference in Dhaka yesterday where the plan of the local manufacturer of spice brand ACI Pure to sponsor the British Curry Awards, due in London next month, was announced. Ashraf Bin Taj, business director of ACI Consumer Brands, Professor Ferhat Anwar, chief adviser of Bangladesh Brand Forum, and Enam Ali, founder of BCA, were present among others.

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

ACI has planned to grab a slice of about 3.5 billion pound sterling curry industry in the United Kingdom (UK) with its spices.

The company says it will enter the British market through sponsoring the British Curry Awards (BCA), due in London next month, under its spice brand ACI Pure.

"We are going to place our products on the international arena for competition. We are attending the programme with a vision to enter the curry restaurants with our spices," said Ashraf Bin Taj, business director of ACI Consumer Brands, told a press conference in Dhaka yesterday.

Managing Director of Bangladesh Sangbad Sangstha

Zaglul A Chowdhury, Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Brand Forum Professor Ferhat Anwar and Founder of BCA Enam Ali were present among others at the conference.

Industry insiders said about 9,500 Indian restaurants are operating in the UK employing about 100,000 people, with about 25 percent or around 24 million people in the UK consuming the Indian cuisine.

"For the last three years we have established the British Curry Awards as the biggest and most prestigious Restaurant Oscar in the world," said Enam Ali, founder of the BCA, at the conference.

The BCA, launched in 2005, has now getting increasing responses from the restaurants and consumers. The number of

nominations stands at 26,000 this year, up from 12,000 in 2005, said Ali, also a Bangladeshi.

"We will take you to global market," said Ali, referring to the local food processing companies.

ACI, with the support Bangladesh Brand Forum, will be the first company to take part in the BCA.

"We have everything including technology. We believe we will do well in the global arena," said Taj, citing that ACI's spice has already entered the markets of the Middle East and Australia.

"The British Curry Award can be a nice opportunity for the local agro-processors to enter the UK as well as European market," said Bangladesh Brand Forum Chief Adviser Ferhat Anwar.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Teaching Quality Improvement in Secondary Education Project Directorate of Secondary and Higher Education Ministry of Education

Invitation for Tender

Table with 3 columns: No., Ministry/Division, and details of tender items.

KEY INFORMATION

Table with 2 columns: No. and details of procurement method.

FUNDING INFORMATION

Table with 2 columns: No. and details of budget and source of funds.

PARTICULAR INFORMATION

Table with 2 columns: No. and details of project code, tender package, and publication date.

Table with 3 columns: No., Tender closing date and time, and Tender opening date and time.

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Table with 4 columns: Lot No., Identification of lot, Location, and Tender security amount.

Table with 2 columns: No. and details of tender documents.

Table with 2 columns: No. and details of tender documents.

GD-4254
Md Nazrul Islam Project Director Tel. # 9562228

Advertisement for Titas Gas Distribution and Engineering Company Limited, featuring a list of services and contact information.

Advertisement for Ganchanjatobh Bangla Desh Sarkar, featuring details about a tender for a road project and contact information.