

Dream71 to enter Japanese app market

STAR BUSINESS REPORT

Leading software maker Dream71 Bangladesh Ltd is set to launch its solutions and services in Japan, in collaboration with local company DreamInPockets.

The two firms will take part in the Japan IT Week, one of the leading information communication related expositions in the world, in Tokyo on May 10-12.

At the event, Dream71 will roll out the customised version of its sales force automation solution 'PocketSales71'. The solution will target representatives of small to medium-sized pharmaceuticals in Japan as customers.

"The application will create a new

platform through which medical representatives can become more productive," said Rashad Kabir, managing director of Dream71, in a statement.

The app will allow representatives to plan their visits automatically and rid them of manual reporting. However, its best part is the management will be able to monitor the activities of representatives and guide them.

The app's web and mobile versions will make the day-to-day activities of a medical representative easier as it will automate several tasks that need to be carried out manually, said Kabir.

The app has been developed in Japanese language to make users more comfortable, as the target mar-

ket is Japan at the moment, he added.

Dream71 has already launched a similar app in Bangladesh, which helps companies accelerate their capacity, Kabir said.

A few more Bangladeshi software companies are also participating in the fair along with the Bangladesh Hi-Tech Park Authority.

"Bangladeshi companies will get opportunities to attend business-to-business meetings with global companies and receive work orders," said Kabir.

Dream71, which started operations only two and a half years ago, exports its flagship product PocketSales to 14 countries such as the Netherlands, the UK, Egypt, Malaysia and South Korea.



Md Arfan Ali, managing director of Bank Asia, and Mahfuz Anam, editor and publisher of The Daily Star, exchange the signed documents of a deal at The Daily Star Centre in Dhaka yesterday. Under the deal titled "Spreading Knowledge", 1,000 copies of The Daily Star will be distributed among the meritorious students of Jahangirnagar University. Mohammed Zahurul Alam, deputy managing director of the bank; Mohammad Borhanuddin, deputy managing director; Md Ruhul Motin, first assistant vice president; Mizanur Rahman, general manager for finance and accounts at The Daily Star, and Sher Ali, general manager for business development, were also present.



AKM Kamal Uddin, head of corporate banking at NRB Bank, and Md Zahidur Rahman, chief technical officer at Systems Resources Ltd (SRL), attend the signing of a deal at a programme to provide utility bill collection services through SRL's payments gateway.



Belinda Shaw, chief financial officer of General Electric for ASEAN, Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, congratulates Fadiyah Khan, director of Summit Group, as Fadiyah rang the closing bell at the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) on April 26. The act of ringing the NYSE bells is considered to be an honour and a symbol of a company's achievement.

Aviation, tourism sector leaders demand more allocation in budget

STAR BUSINESS DESK

The leaders of the aviation and tourism sector yesterday sought more allocation and incentive in the upcoming national budget, to help the sector flourish further.

They demanded the fuel surcharge and landing charge to be adjusted, withdrawal of VAT on air tickets and allowance of the duty-free import of tourist vehicles.

They pressed the demands at a pre-budget discussion on civil aviation and tourism, organised by the Aviation and Tourism Journalists' Forum of Bangladesh,

at Hotel Abakash in Dhaka.

Civil Aviation and Tourism Minister Rashed Khan Menon attended the event as the chief guest where State Minister for Finance MA Mannan and Chairman of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on the Civil Aviation and Tourism Ministry M Faruk Khan also spoke.

"I will discuss the demands with the officials of the finance ministry and other stakeholders," Menon said.

He said the adjustment of the fuel surcharge for the aviation sector will also be discussed. "We are working on adjusting the landing charges."

IMF says still need credible debt relief for Greece

AFP, Washington

Despite an agreement reached Tuesday on a reform package, Europe still needs to provide "credible" debt relief to Greece before the International Monetary Fund can provide more financing, an IMF official said.

Greece and its creditors closed a troubled chapter in the negotiations with a preliminary deal on pension and tax cuts after many months of talks.

"Now, this will have to go hand in hand with a credible strategy for how to restore debt sustainability," said Poul Thomsen, head of the IMF's European Department.

Those discussions on how to address the Greek debt burden are only now getting underway, he told reporters in a conference call.

"Once we have (a) program that consists of both legs -- strong policies and strong debt relief measures -- we can take it to the board" of the IMF for approval.

But that could be the thorniest part of the negotiations with Europe, which has been reluctant to provide more debt relief, particularly Germany, where additional concessions are unpopular and a general election is looming in September.

Greece Finance Minister Euclid Tsakalotos said he hoped to see a final deal in time for the May 22 meeting of eurozone finance ministers, which must approve the agreement.

A compromise is required to unblock a tranche of loans Greece needs to repay seven billion euros (\$7.6 billion) in maturing loans in July.

JPMorgan set to move hundreds of staff from UK over Brexit

AFP, London

US bank JPMorgan will move hundreds of staff from London to Dublin, Frankfurt and Luxembourg as part of their Brexit plans, the firm's head of investment banking said Wednesday.

"We are going to use the three banks we already have in Europe as the anchors for our operations," Daniel Pinto told Bloomberg News.

"We will have to move hundreds of people in the short term to be ready for day one, when negotiations finish, and then we will look at the longer-term numbers."

UK-based banks and other financial firms face losing "passporting" rights to sell services to clients operating in the European Union once Britain definitively quits the EU in March 2019.

Talks between the two sides are not set to begin until after a UK general election slated for June 8, at which Prime Minister Theresa May is expected to be returned with an increased majority.

Many banks are now looking to cities in the eurozone to set up a European presence supervised by the European Central Bank.

Submarine cable link between Bangladesh, Myanmar on cards

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The company still owes Tk 244 crore to the Islamic Development Bank (IDB), which is a part of a loan BSCCL took in 2006 to be connected with the consortium for SEA-ME-WE-4.

It has taken another loan of Tk 352 crore from IDB to bear the expenses of SEA-ME-WE-5.

Earnings from this regional link and bandwidth export will help the listed company to pay back the loans, Hossain said.

US-based IT company to hire 1,000 graduates for Bangladesh operations

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The company is currently running its business in California, USA.

Last year, its turnover was \$30 million, which is expected to reach \$50 million this year, said Kazi, a non-resident Bangladeshi.

Palak said the government plans to develop Rajshahi as an IT hub of Bangladesh, and the initiative of Kazi IT would help promote the northern city on the world stage as an ICT destination.

The government will soon start setting up an IT park in the city, he said, adding that export earnings by the ICT sector would cross \$1 billion next year and \$5 billion by 2021.

Kazi IT is one of the top 10 exporters in Bangladesh's ICT sector. The company bought six IT companies in the US and plans to buy some firms in Bangladesh as well, said Md Sadiqur Rahman, a manager at Kazi IT.

Filipino justice secretary orders own men to probe him

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It was Deguito, along with several others, who the DOJ resolved to indict for the heist.

Deguito had told the Senate that Wong made the referral to open several accounts, where the stolen Bangladesh funds were transferred. The accounts turned out to have been opened under the name of fictitious depositors.

The AMLC also alleged that on Feb. 10 and 11, 2016 PhilRem transferred a total of P1-billion of the laundered Bangladesh funds to Eastern Hawaii Leisure Company Limited's Philippine National Bank account number. Wong is president and general manager of the firm.

Ang alleged Aguirre is the godfather to Wong's child.

In response to Ang's latest claim, Aguirre called the businessman a "liar."

"Kim Wong is never my kumpare. I am never a ninong of any of his children. I have no hand in the resolution of Bangladesh case. Atong Ang is a liar," Aguirre said, in a text message.

Aguirre said he was ready to face any legislative inquiry into all of Ang's allegations.

GSP demand to dominate Ticfa talks on May 17

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After the Rana Plaza building collapse, Bangladesh signed the International Labour Organisation-brokered Sustainability Compact with the EU committing to responsible business behaviour and improving workplace safety and labour rights.

Later, the US and Canada became partners of the Sustainability Compact. "So, we are running preparations for both the meetings," the commerce ministry official said.

The commerce secretary will lead the Bangladesh side in the meeting and the assistant USTR the American side.

Before the suspension of GSP, only 0.54 percent of Bangladesh's total exports were covered by the scheme in a year.

Products like dried fish, ceramics and plastic goods enjoyed the benefit but not the main export earner: apparel.

Earlier, the first Ticfa meeting was held in Dhaka in April 2014 and the second one in Washington in November 2015.



Mizanur Rahman Shelley, chairman of Premier Leasing and Finance Ltd, presides over the 15th annual general meeting of the company at Spectra Convention Centre in Dhaka on Tuesday. The company approved 5 percent cash and 5 percent stock dividends for 2016.

PREMIER LEASING



Arshad Waliur Rahman, director of Transcom Group; Arshad Huq, chief operating officer, and Yeamin Sharif Chowdhury, head of business, attend the launch of Whirlpool Inverter air conditioners, which will be found at all showrooms of Transcom Digital.

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