

Accord with UNDP signed on small industries

The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), External Resource Division (ERD), and Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industries Corporation (BSCIC) have signed a project agreement on "technical assistance for handicrafts, cottage and small industries" worth US dollar 457,500, reports BSS.

According to a UNIC press release in Dhaka on Tuesday night, the project, financed by the UNDP, will be implemented by BSCIC in cooperation with the United Nations International Labour Organisation (ILO).

The objective of the project is to strengthen institutional capabilities of BSCIC to enable it to act increasingly as a catalytic agent for the promotion of small and cottage industries in the economy.

The project was signed Monday by UNDP Resident Representative Charles H Larismont, M Azizur Rahman, Deputy Chief of ERD, M Maniruzzaman Chowdhury, Chairman of BSCIC.

Oman raises investment oil development

ABU DHABI, Oct 17 : Oman's spending on the oil sector soared by more than 30 per cent in 1990 as the government in the southern Gulf state sought to increase production and reserves, reports AFP.

Petroleum Development Oman (PDO), the country's main oil producer, said it spent 906.2 million Dollars in 1990 on the oil industry, compared with 682.7 million Dollars in 1989.

The increase was due to the implementation of major oil projects, such as the giant Khawair Project, it said in its annual 1990 report, received by AFP on Wednesday.

The first phase of the 500-million-Dollar scheme, which involves water injection at a major oil field, cost 70 million Dollars, with 56 million Dollars spent on exploration and development of existing wells, the report said.

New discoveries in 1990 pushed up the Sultanate's crude reserves by 92 million barrels to 4.25 billion barrels and those of gas by 31 billion cubic feet to 9.9 trillion cubic feet.

Oil production hit a record in 1990, reaching 238 million barrels, up by six per cent from 1989, the report said.

Oman is not a member of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) but has followed its policies on output and prices and has sought to bridge the gap between the cartel and independent producers.

A sharp rise in oil prices during the Gulf crisis last year pushed 21 Dollars in 1989.

DCCI opposes NBR move to amend Gift Tax Act

Star Economic Report

The President of Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI), Mahbubur Rahman in a statement on Thursday alleged that the National Board of Revenue (NBR) is reportedly thinking of taking certain irregular actions against the settled cases of income tax, centering round the legally paid cash gift in order to harass the tax payers.

He said such actions are contrary to existing laws of the land and stated that any person can lawfully make a gift of his movable or immovable property to any person under the existing law on transfer of property, under Muslim law and law on gift tax.

The DCCI President mentioned that in 1985 after the withdrawal of gift tax act, any person could make a gift of his movable and immovable prop-

erty without paying gift tax. After the reintroduction of Gift Tax Act in 1990, a person can transfer his property subject to payment of gift tax.

Rahman complained that the NBR is taking the above mentioned action disregarding the decisions of the highest income tax appellate bodies,

Tk 10 lakh goods seized at ZIA

Customs officials seized goods worth about Tk 10 lakh this week, reports UNB.

Seized goods include : computer, VCP, readymade garments and cosmetic products.

The goods were air-freighted through Biman from Dubai, Bangkok and Singapore under false declaration.

on the legality of cash gifts. The DCCI chief said the NBR is trying to avoid its own decisions on the subject taken earlier. Such an attempt on the part of the NBR is only intended to harass the tax payers, he observed. He also said that in addition, such attempts will create hindrances to a very sensitive area like the investment climate and create an unfavourable situation for the national economy. This will no doubt be an action on the part of the NBR contrary to the policy decisions of the government to encourage investment in the country, he added.

Rahman hoped that the authority will refrain from taking such action against the tax payers and also urged the government to stop such action if already taken by the NBR in the meantime.

Dhaka for strengthening UN to face calamities

UNITED NATIONS, Oct 17 : Bangladesh has expressed the hope that during the current session of the UN General Assembly important progress would be made in strengthening the capacity of the international community to cope with the cause and consequences of disasters of various types including natural calamities, reports BSS.

Speaking yesterday at the second committee discussing the report of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) Ambassador Humayun Kabir, Permanent Representative of Bangladesh to the United Nations, said that Bangladesh had an abiding interest in promoting agreement on all positive and constructive suggestions in this regard.

He said the last session of the ECOSOC also extensively discussed the need for timely and adequate humanitarian assistance arising out of disasters. Concerns were expressed

on the scale of financing of such assistance programmes, their timeliness and other relevant matters, he said and added that "we had been greatly encouraged by the general agreement on that occasion on the need for adequate, timely, coherent and coordinated response by the United Nations in the face of such emergencies."

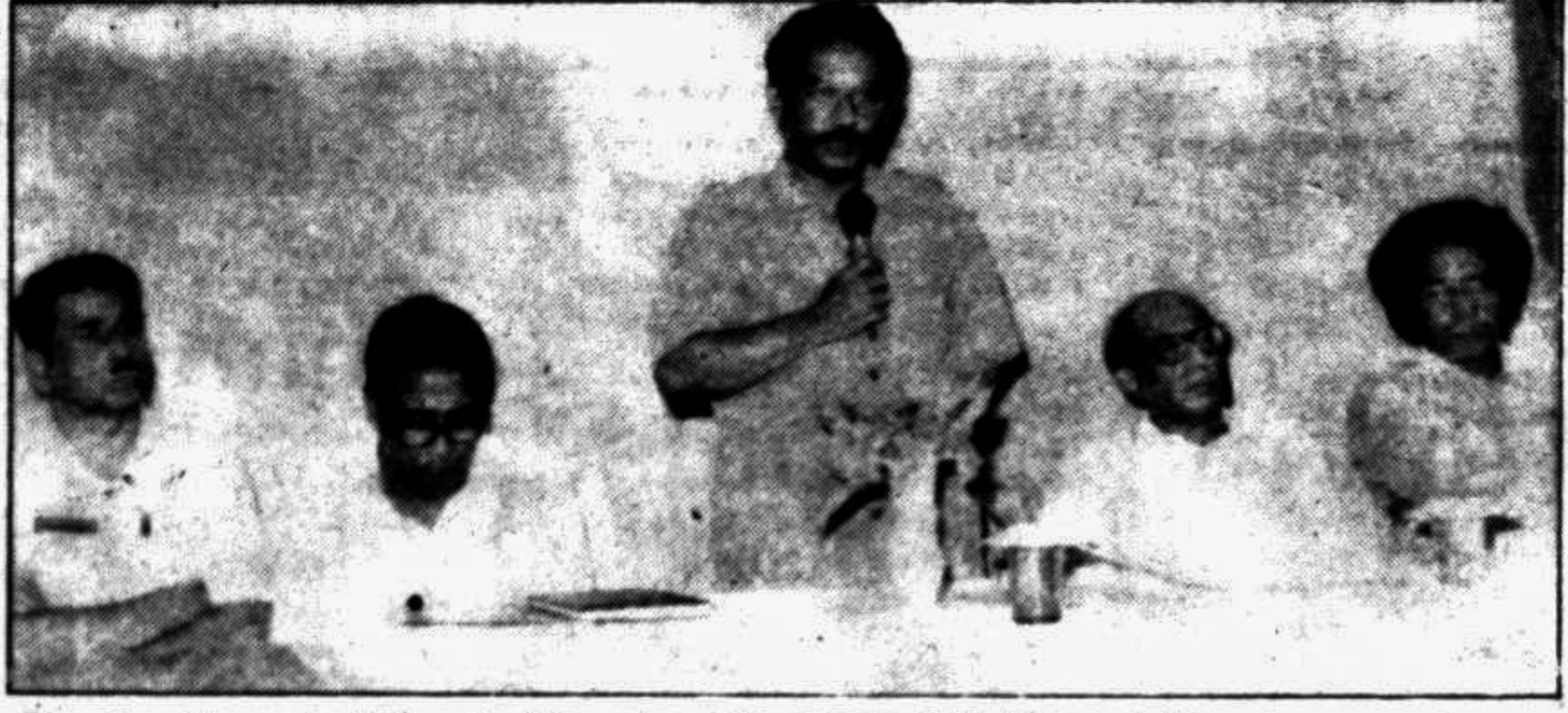
Ambassador Kabir said Bangladesh also attaches great importance to councils continuing work on the critical issue of development finance, question of external indebtedness of developing countries and other important cross sectoral issues.

He mentioned that the Secretary General had suggested the convening of an international conference on development finance and the Group of 77 spokesman had supported the idea. He said Bangladesh felt that this serious recommendation should be

carefully examined to arrive at an early decision.

He said 18th special session of the General Assembly adopted the declaration on international economic cooperation of the international development strategy for the 4th UN development decade and the new programme of action for the LDCs for 1990s had identified broad parameters within which such needed multilateral cooperation should be promoted, strengthened and sustained. He, however, said that credibility and success of these instruments would depend on our readiness to take specific initiatives and spur action on a wide front.

Ambassador Kabir referred to the new criteria for the LDCs and the graduation rules recommended by the Committee for Development Planning (CDP).



Director General of Family Planning Directorate Md. Nazmul Haq inaugurating an innovative project of family planning through insurance at Gazipur on Wednesday. Managing Director of Delta Life Safat Ahmed Choudhury and Project Director M. R. Saadi are seen on his left.

Osaka Convention to explore business opportunities

By M Noorul Islam Khan

lofty indeed provided the partners from Third World and underdeveloped countries take proper advantage of the same. Participants from Bangladesh have to be very much accurate and precise in their trade and joint venture and similar other proposals.

JETRO having a liaison office in Dhaka is playing a pioneering role in galvanising efforts to popularise the concept of Japanese pattern of trade and other joint venture collaboration and technology transfer.

In this connection it is relevant to mention the keen interests being shown by Japan in the socio-economic uplift of Bangladesh. The recent visit of the Japanese Economic Mission led by Kikuo Ikeda was highly successful. He is on record to have said that there were immense possibilities to eliminate Bangladesh's trade deficit with Japan. The mission was here to find avenues for diversification and expansion of bilateral economic relations between Japan and Bangladesh which would create scopes for more Japanese investment in the country. Ikeda who led a 47-member strong Economic Mission comprising leading personalities of Japanese Chamber of Commerce, business houses and industrial conglomerates surveyed the overall investment atmosphere in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is in the fifth position and the fifth biggest recipient of aid and grants. In 1988 alone Bangladesh received 118.71 million US dollars in grants and 341.96 million in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) from Japan. The economic assistance to Bangladesh is now spreading

from grass-roots level to super-sized projects. Special mention may be made of Meghna Bridge, Ghorasal and Fenchuganj Fertilisers, agricultural training projects in various parts of the country, water supply and power distribution projects, Greater Dhaka Digital Telephone network, Weather Surveillance Radar for forecasting and warning about cyclones etc. Japan undoubtedly is the biggest donor country for Bangladesh but we in business and industry here would also like to see Japan as the biggest investing country in the public, private sectors in Bangladesh.

Bangladesh is the ninth largest recipient country of OECF loans. Nineteen commodity and 27 project loans have so far been committed. The OECF loan is cheapest in the sense that only one per cent interest is charged with maturity period of 30 years and ten year grace period.

Since 1974, OECF has been extending 27 project loans. About 50 per cent of project loans are directed to industry and mining sector, 33 per cent to energy and power sector and seven per cent to telecommunications sector.

It is learnt that more than 40 per cent of OECF project loans have been provided to the industry and the energy sector. The installed production capacity of Jamuna Fertilizer Factory financed by OECF will be 1.50 million ton per year. Similarly, in the power sector, generation capacity financed by OECF exceeds 10 per cent of total installed generation capacity.

In October 1990, the fund committed the energy sector adjustment loan which is co-

financing programme with the World Bank.

The OECF loan package has been extended at the level of around Yen 27.5 billion every year.

In addition to ODA loans, OECF is also engaged in making equity investment in corporations registered in Japan whose business operations will contribute to promoting economic cooperation with developing countries.

In 1990, OECF made equity investment in the joint venture project Karnaphuli Fertilizer Company Ltd (KAPCO) amounting to more than 420 million dollars. Along with OECF, Bangladesh Government, public development agencies of Denmark and Britain and private corporations including Japan and Denmark are joining as shareholders of KAPCO.

OECF also carries out monitoring activities in order to ensure attainment of intended project benefits. Besides, it analyses the problems and tries to propose to Bangladesh Government remedial measures for solving such problems related to operation and maintenance.

Mentionably, among the major OECF-funded projects, telecommunication network expansion project, Chittagong Steel Mills rehabilitation project, Maddhapara Hard Rock Mining Project, Jamuna Fertilizer Project, Chittagong Caustic Soda Plant Rehabilitation Project are noteworthy.

The role of JETRO in Bangladesh also has been very fruitful to enhance trade and industrial relations between the two countries. Its role may be further extended and diversified by encouraging the



BANGKOK: Bangladesh Finance Minister Saifur Rahman speaking during the morning session of the World Bank meeting Wednesday. Saifur Rahman commented on Bangladesh's new-found democracy and changes in the country. — AFP/UNB photo

French Finance Minister defends austerity budget

PARIS, Oct 17 : France's Finance Minister Pierre Bergovoy Tuesday defended his controversial austerity budget for 1992, telling parliament there was "no alternative" despite growing social unrest and high unemployment, reports AFP.

Bergovoy acknowledged that an unemployment rate of 9.5 per cent (2.74 million registered unemployed) was "far too high", but added that "we must all know 'by now there is no miracle solution'."

Project of family insurance opens

Star Economic Report

An innovative project of family planning through insurance was inaugurated Wednesday.

Jointly financed by the Health and Family Welfare Ministry and the Delta Life Insurance Company, the project was inaugurated by the Director General of Family Planning Directorate Md Nazmul Haq at Gazipur.

Managing Director of the Delta Life Insurance Company, Safat Ahmed Choudhury and the Project Director MR Saadi also spoke on the occasion. Chairman of Basan Union Parishad of Gazipur Askar Ali Sarkar chaired the function.

A contract of the project between the insurance company and the ministry was signed on May 21 last.

Under the contract, the ministry will provide a total amount of Taka two crore in phases.

The project is aimed at providing insurance security to those who would keep their family size small and encouraging the poor families in family planning with monetary help.

Labour leaders vow to resist disinvestment

Star Economic Report

A meeting of union leaders of the Sector Corporations has firmly vowed to resist denationalisation of industrial units of the Corporations and termed the move as irrational. The leaders formed an organisation styled 'Anti-denationalisation and Realisation of Demands Parishad' to step up their resistance movement.

Speakers at the meeting pointed out that due to reckless disinvestment of mills and factories belonging to the Sector Corporations during the past regime, thousands of workers lost their jobs and are now starving. Moreover, as most of the disinvested units remain closed and partially open, the government is now deprived of earnings to the tune of crores of taka on that account, they observed.

The meeting gave total support to the strike called by the SKOP on October 21.

The meeting called upon the Government to stop the implementation of denationalisation policy.

The meeting was addressed among others by Mohammad Abdul Iye, Giasuddin Ahmed, Lutfur Rahman Bhuiyan, Chand Mia Gazi, Abul Hossain, Abdul Gani (BCIC), Ahmed Hossain, A.B.M. Bazur Rahman, Nurul Islam Bhuiyan, Z.M. Quamrul Anam, Reza Awal Mridha, A.H.M. Mohtuddin (RTMC), Abul Hossain, Delwar Hossain, Abul Kalam (BSFC), Salamutullah, Zainal Abedin (BSEC) and A.B.M. Anwar Hossain, Coordinator.

Meanwhile, Muhammad Mahbul Alam, Member, First Labour Court, in a statement to the Press warned the move for massive disinvestment will plunge the nation into deep economic crisis. He sought intervention of the Prime

Indian smuggler held in Kampala with million Dollars

KAMPALA, Oct 17 : An Indian was arrested here Tuesday trying to smuggle a million Dollars in cash and Travellers' Cheques out of the country, a government minister said, reports AFP.

Rajendra Kumar Raichura, 31, an employee of a local Asian-owned firm that owns a foreign exchange bureau in Kampala, admitted smuggling hundreds of thousands of Dollars out of the country on four different occasions this year. Presidential Affairs Minister Kintu Musoke said.

Musoke, who paraded Raichura with bundles of banknotes before journalists here, hours after he was arrested at Entebbe Airport near Kampala, said the Indian was guilty of "economic sabotage."

Former Dictator Idi Amin expelled thousands of "Asians," a term used in East Africa to denote people of Indian or Pakistani origin in the 1970s.

But the current government of President Yoweri Museveni has encouraged Asian businessmen to return in a bid to help revive Uganda's economy, devastated by years of civil war.

Jute market dull, growers suffer losses

By Inam Ahmed

The jute market still remains dull as most of the private operatives have no yet started buying raw jute.

The prices of raw jute is also low causing the jute growers a huge loss. Raw jute is now being sold between Taka 150 and 350 per maund for different varieties. The price was same a month back. The price would have jumped upto Taka 150 a maund if the private purchasers were operative.

Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA) sources said most of the big purchasers are suffering from shortages of money. They could not get credit from banks for jute purchase. Experts said delayed credit facilities hampering jute purchase is compelling the jute farmers to sell their products below production cost.

BJA sources said the government asked them to make buffer stock of jute in 1986-87 and said the government would buy back the stock. However, government later did not lift jute from the purchasers.

The jute purchasers had to sell their at a lower rate than their buying price. Most of the purchasers could not repay their credit to the banks. The banks are not providing them fresh credit due to their defaulting.

A ministerial sub-committee led by the Agriculture Minister to solve the problems in the jute sector held a meeting on August 29, 1991. It decided to calculate the loss suffered by the jute purchasers for the possibility of making a segregated account. The meeting also decided to suggest the sub-committee to withdraw cases against the defaulters until any decision to segregate the previous credit is taken. The Jute Ministry was supposed to submit a synopsis on the issue for discussion in the Council of the Ministers. But sources said none of these actions have been yet taken.

BJA sources said if delaying continues in taking any action, the jute growers would be the ultimate loser as they will have to sell all their jute within one or two months.

Castro asks Cubans not to depend on foreign aid

HAVANA, Oct 17 : President Fidel Castro, painting a bleak picture of Cuba's immediate economic prospects, warned his people not to expect free handouts from anyone and urged them to produce more with less outside help, reports Reuter.

"Nobody is going to make us any gifts," he bluntly told a congress of the island's ruling communist party meeting in the eastern city of Santiago De Cuba.

Shyampur Sugar Mills Ltd (BSFIC)

P.O. Shyampur : Dist. Rangpur

Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited by the General Manager, Shyampur Sugar Mills Limited, P.O. Shyampur, Dist. Rangpur from the bonafide supplier, stockist, dealer, importer, manufacturer for supply of the following items at party's own cost and risk to Mills General stores.

S1. No.	Name of items & specifications	Cost of tender schedule	Tender receiving date and time	Tender opening date and time
1.	Tyre with tube and tubes of different size (Re-Tender)	@Tk 250/- per set.	27.10.1991 upto 12-Noon.	27.10.1991 at 12-30 P.M.
2.	Electrical Goods and other goods/ materials	@Tk 100/- per set	- do -	- do -

Tender schedules with detail specifications and terms and conditions thereof may be had on payment of the value in cash as mentioned above against each group on all working days between 8-AM to 1-PM and on Thursday between 8-AM to 11-AM from the office of the (i) The Finance Manager, Shyampur Sugar Mills Limited, P.O. Shyampur, Dist. Rangpur (ii) The Additional Chief Accountant (Cash) Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation, Adamjee Court, 115-120, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 and (iii) The General Manager, Shipping Office, Arag Chamber, 68-Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong. All tenders will be received upto 12-Noon as per above scheduled date & time simultaneously at the tender box to be kept in front of the Office (i) The Commercial Department, Shyampur Sugar Mills Ltd. P.O. Shyampur, Dist. Rangpur (ii) The Deputy Commissioner's Office, P.O. & Dist. Rangpur (iii) The Purchase Division, BSFIC, Purbani Annex Building, Motijheel Commercial Area, Dhaka and will be opened on the same date and time after half an hour at 12-30 PM in presence of the tenderers or their representative if any. All tenders must accompany an earnest money of Tk. 2% of the total quoted value for tyre with tube and tubes under group I (one) and for all other group earnest money will be of Tk 5% of the total quoted value; but not less than Tk. 5000/- (Tk. five thousand) in the form of Demand Draft/Pay Order in favour of Shyampur Sugar Mills Ltd., from any schedule Bank to be drawn from the Janata Bank, Shyampur Branch, P.O. Shyampur, Dist. Rangpur. Tenders without earnest money or less earnest money or if it is conditional will not be considered for acceptance. Intending tenderers may send their tenders by post, but it must reach this Office on or before the schedule date and time. No late tender to be sent by post or if it is received after the opening of the tender will be accepted. No tender schedule will be sold on the opening date of the tender. The Management reserves the right to accept or cancel all or any of the tender without assigning any reason thereof.