First with the news. The Baily Star

Best with the views

Steps to improve Ctg Steel Mills suggested

Some specific suggestions have been put forward to the Chittagong Steel Mills authorities by a Japanese expert to recover the industry from the present state of "total deadlock", reports BSS.

Taiki Akimoto, an expert on steel technology, visited the mill to have a clear cut idea about the problems of this once prestigious Japanese assisted and financed steel mill and their solution.

The Dhaka office of Japan External Trade Organisation (JETRO) organised the visit of Akimoto, who is also a senior management consultant of Chu-San-Ren (Central Japan Industries Association) to analvse the existing problems of the mill and to recommend appropriate measures for its improvement.

The Chittagong Steel Mills Limited, which was set up with the financial and technical assistance of Japan, started its commercial operation in August, 1967. With an investment of 300 crore rupees the mill was designed, erected and commissioned by M/s Kobe Steel Mills Limited, Japan. It was a prestigious steel

mill for the then Pakistan. since this was the first such significant mill in the whole of Pakistan. The work of the plant actually started in 1963 on the bank of the river Karnaphuli.

Talking to BSS here yesterday. Akimoto said he visited all the production units of the mill which is the lone national level steel manufacturing industry. It is now in total suspension of production due to stockpile of huge quantity of finished products. The products of the mill remained stockpiled for their higher prices than those of the mills in the private sector. The total value of the stockpiled products now stands at around Taka 40 crore, according to sources. The amount of bank loans also exceeds Taka 300 crore, the interest being Taka 31 crore per year.

Only two units out of seven of the mill which were partially operative also became inoperative in February last

Akimoto, talking to the Managing Director and the General Managers in charge of different production units suggested scrapping of some

"never viable units" and modernisation of possible viable units with new machinery replacing the old ones.

He also suggested reduction of present manpower strength to at least 2000 from the existing over 3000. But he cautioned that during retrenchment, it must be looked into that the sincere, hard working and efficient people are not left out. It was found in many cases that the capable people left the job while the inefficient remained.

Meanwhile, 1100 employees of the mill have opted for retirement under golden handshake scheme for which the authorities will require an amount of Taka 44 crore.

Akimoto, also adviser of many government organisations like JETRO and JICA. laid importance on human resources development adding each and every one from the number one man to the bottom line worker should be properly motivated to recover the mill He said it was found that many people do not work happily.

rather reluctantly. He called for team work for better quality products supplementing each others weaknesses.

He said the Managing Director of the mill. Hedayet Hossain, during discussions sought his suggestions on how to overcome the hurdles and place those to the higher au-

thorities for implementation. Akimoto, an internationally reputed expert on steel industry, visited a number of countries, especially the developing ones. He expressed his optimism that still this steel mill could be made viable with the implementation of his sugges-

He said on return to Tokyo he would submit his recommendations to JETRO head of fice about the mill for its next course of action.

The factory has an annual capacity of manufacturing 1,46,000 metric tons of MS billet, 72,000 MT of MS plate, 60,000 MT of MS sheet and 10,000 tons of other steel products.

Katsumi Hara, JETRO representative in Bangladesh, who had accompanied the expert during the visit said his organ isation had been inviting experts in different fields such as ceramic, silk, foundry, garments and steel in addition to its present policy of promotion of more exports to Japan from the developing countries.

He mentioned that the visit of Akimoto would be very significant to the present context of the steel mill and hoped on the basis of his recommendations JETRO headquarters would take further action for the mill's survival.

Hara said solution of the problems of this mill would be a model for other industries facing similar nature of problems.

The JETRO representative said one Japanese company named Marusan Sangyo (rope making industry) set up at a cost of four million US dollars at Chittagong EPZ was likely to go into commercial production from June next. This Japanese private sector industry was established with the direct cooperation of JETRO overseas investment scheme which was introduced only in 1986. It will be a hundred per cent export-oriented industry using local, raw jute. About 200 people would be employed there initially, he said.

True trade image can help attract foreign investment

By Staff Correspondent

Foreign investors may be at

tracted to invest in Bangladesh simply by upholding the countries true image abroad. This observation was made

by the two visiting Canadian manufacturers and exporters of equipment to Bangladesh.

Ken Kawaguch, an engineer and Gabriel Hauser, a lawyer, who recently visited Bangladesh, said they bore a negative outlook partly under the influence of Western me-

In a statement, the Canadian professionals said that they had the impression that Bangladesh was a povertystricken and natural catastrophic country.

They regretted that even the Bangladesh High Commission at Ottawa could not help them change their misconception before their visit. Even the libraries of Canada have not any latest information about Bangladesh.

CEPZ exports finished goods worth \$129m

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG. Mar 28: Chittagong Export Processing Zone (CEPZ), the country's first operational export base. exported finished goods worth 129 million US dollars from its industrial units in 1993, an increase of 24 million US dollars compared with its

According to official reports available here, CEPZ earned over 105 million US dollars against the exports of various manufactured goods to foreign countries in the year 1992.

*previous year

The exportable items included readymade garments. electronics, territowel, artificial flower, anchor chain, golf and fishing equipment, shoes, caps and handbags.

Presently, there are 53 operational industrial units at CEPZ while 10 more are under construction, officials

The enterprises covered hundred per cent foreign investments and joint venture projects, they said adding that Japan topped the list with 14 units alone. Chittagong Export Processing Zone which became operational in 1983 had drawn a very good response from foreign entrepreneur's especially from Japan and Korea, officials claimed.

They informed that five sectors out of 7 in CEPZ had already been occupied by the investors.

As a result, the authority embarked on the expansion programme under third phase to house more industrial units to boost exports.

Officials said the dredging work of the third phase development programmes had been completed recently.

40th auction of BB Bill held

Nine bids were accepted with a face value of Taka 75 crores at the 40th auction of the 91-Day Bangladesh Bank Bill held Monday, reports UNB.

The weighted average price of the accepted bids was Taka 99.46 per 100 Taka.

OPEC HQ may be shifted to Geneva

GENEVA, Mar 28: The Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is considering moving its headquarters from Vienna to Geneva, an OPEC source said Sunday, reports AFP.

The source, seeking to clarify conflicting reports in the Swiss and Austrian press, said rumours, arose because we want to have our own headquarters after 29 years in rented premises in Vienna.

As a result of the rumours. Geneva authorities contacted OPEC with an offer to provide a site for 90 years and help finance construction of a headquarters near the United Nations institutions, here, the source explained.

OPEC's secretariat was initially based in Geneva, but was moved to Vienna in 1965 because the canton of Geneva refused to grant it diplomatic privileges in line with those of UN facilities here.

Qatar meanwhile also said it would offer "everything you want, if the headquarters was moved to the tiny Gulf state, the source said.

The source said Austria, which draws economic benefits of an estimated 50 million dollars a year from OPEC's presence in Vienna, in turn reacted by offering OPEC new terms.

"The situation is still fluid. the source added, saying a written proposal from the Austrians was expected to be discussed by OPEC ministers at their summer conference in Vienna around mid-June.



Nurul Husain Khan, Chairman, Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Limited presiding over the 42nd board meeting on Thursday at EBL, Khulna. M Ghaziul Huq, Mohd Noor Ali, A M Shaukat Ali all directors, Md Qamrul Huda, Managing Director, A I M Iftikar Rahman, Deputy Managing Director and Secretary to the Board Arham Masudul Huq are also seen.

Hundreds of Somalis lose jobs following US troops withdrawal

MOGADISHU, Mar 28: Hundreds of Somalis left jobless after the US troops withdrawal pose a security threat to the United Nations mission in this Horn of Africa nation bedeviled by banditry, officials said today, reports AFP.

The Texas-based contractor brown and Root sacked 600 Somali workers at the port and airport on Saturday 24 hours after the last American marine left Somalia.

Italian, German and Kuwaiti forces had withdrawn earlier. leading to more sackings.

Hundreds of Somalis are being put out of work daily, largely because donors are pumping less money into told they could by the depart-

Somalia now that a famine that killed at least 300,000 people is over, thanks to relief agencies and the US-led military intervention that began in December 1992.

Many unemployed Somalis the ruined capital Mogadishu queue every morning outside the gates of the UN compound, hoping to be hired as casual labourers.

Many of the 600 who lost their jobs on Saturday were detained by Egyptian forces who mistook them for looters.

UN military spokesman Chris Budge said many of those arrested had been taking away supplies because they had been ing troops.

"Incidents like these create unnecessary bitterness and resentment," said a senior UN official who requested anonymity. "I believe it is a mistake the UN will rue for

"This reinforces a commonly held belief among the Somalia that to the UN, every one of them is a potential bandit or looter," the official

The UN Childrens' Fund (UNICEF) was forced to suspend operations in South Mogadishu in January because of a stand-off with 70 former guards, all armed.

Former Russian minister criticises IMF

LONDON, Mar 28: Former Russian Finance Minister Boris Fvodorov has strongly criticized an International Monetary Fund's (IMF) decision to loan his country 1.5 billion dollars, saying conservatives would take the money and then abandon reforms, reports

In an article published here today by the Financial Times newspaper, the former deputy premier in charge of finance accused Western nations of allowing Russia to "sacrifice economic reforms for illusory political dividends."

"The sooner the money is handed over, the sooner we shall see a change in policy-in the wrong direction, he said.

"There is no valid reason to hurry before being reasonably sure that this government's new virtue is real this means that a budget should be approved first by parliament and the new government track record examined," Fyodorov

"The 1.5 billion is immaterial to Russia, given the scale of its problems, and would be eaten up in a matter of minutes," said the minister who resigned in January to protest against what he called the end of economic reforms.

Fyodorov, who is now a leading member of parliament. also criticised former US President Richard Nixon for his recent meeting in Moscow with ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky and former vicepresident Alexander Rutskoi who was one of the main insti gators of the October 1993 parliamentary-led insurrection against the government.

US Senate approves '95 budget had offered their own propos-WASHINGTON, Mar 28: The US Senate has adopted a bud-

get plan for fiscal year 1995 that contains unspecified spending cuts beyond those proposed by President Clinton and approved earlier by the House of Representatives, says a USIS press release. By a 57-40 vote on March

25, the Senate approved a 1,510,000 million dollar blueprint that projects spending of some 1,600 million dollar less than the president sought for the fiscal year that starts next October 1, and 26,100 million dollar below his request over a five-year pe-

All 55 Democrats voting supported the budget package; they were joined by just 2 Republicans, as 38 others voted against. The Republicans

als that would have cut fiveyear spending much more sharply still.

Negotiators for the House and Senate will meet to resolve differences between the versions approved by the two chambers after Congress returns from a two-week recess on April 11. Budget resolutions simply

set the overall dollar framework for later, more specific programme-by-programme spending decisions by appropriating committees in both House and Senate. Thus the cuts imposed by the Senate, if they survive, could ultimately be applied to defence, foreign aid, or domestic programmes subject to annual appropria-

With the exception of the

additional 1.600 million dollar cut - only about one per cent of the huge federal budget the Senate plan closely follows the president's spending priorities. It continues a downward trend in post-Cold War defence spending and reduces outlays for foreign aid, science and space and agriculture while expanding education. health and anti-crime pro-

It complies with the fiveyear budget plan that Clinton pushed through Congress last year - one designed to reduce the deficit by a cumulative 500,000 million dollar below earlier projections over that time period. All three budget plans --

Clinton's and the House and Senate versions -- are projected to produce the smallest deficit in six years,

Cuban economy may improve in '94

HAVANA, Mar 28: Cuba's battered economy may start back on the road to recovery this year after hitting rock. bottom in 1993. Cuban government officials say, reports Reuter.

But they admit that the Communist-ruled Caribbean island, whose people are suffering shortages of just about everything, still faces huge difficulties as it proceeds with a cautious programme of eco-

nomic reform. President Fidel Castro says the changes are aimed at saving the gains of socialism not dismantling the system or setting the economy on the road

to capitalism. Foreign diplomats in Havana

note, however, that this slows the pace of change as officials search for ways of freeing some areas of the economy while preventing reform from spinning out of control.

'They're very included to open up but they want to avoid chaos, so the opening up is going slower than the Western world would like commented one foreign businessman.

In the latest statement of cautious optimism for 1994. Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina said last week that his country's oil-importing, sugarexporting economy — battered by the collapse of the Soviet Union and the end of traditional aid and trade ties - had survived its worst moment.

China building up reserves of essential goods

BEIJING, Mar 28: China is building up reserves of staple foods and essential goods to try to curb inflation that is running at some 20 per cent nationwide, the China Daily said Monday, reports AFP.

The move follows last week's announcement of em ergency measures to try to curb soaring prices, which have become a matter of great concern for the Chinese government amid fears of social

The reserve programme, designed by the internal trade ministry, has been in trial operation in the cities of Beijing. Shanghai and Tianjin and the provinces of Liaoning, Hubei and Guangdong since the start of the year, the report said.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলীর কার্যালয়, স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর

নং-এলজিইডি/নিঃপ্রঃ/সিলেট/এডিপি/১৩-৭৪/৪৯১

তারিখঃ ২৬/১১/১৪০০বাং ১০-০৩-৯৪ইং

জেলা-সিলেট।

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নং-২২/এডিপি/৯৩-৯৪

বার্ষিক উন্তর্মন কর্মসূচী ১৯৯৩-৯৪ এর আওতায় নিম্নবর্ণিত স্কীমসমূহের কাজ বাস্তবায়নের জন্য এলজিইডি'র তালিকাতুক (আর্থিক ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন) ও এলজিইডি'র আওতাধীন সমস্ত প্রকল্পের পূর্বযোগ্যতাসম্পন্ন ঠিকাদারগণের নিকট হইতে কাজের দরপত্র সিডিউলের সহিত সংযুক্ত অতিরিক্ত শর্তাবলীসহ বাংলাদেশ ফরম নং-২৯১১ এর সাহায্যে গালা সীলযুক্ত খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে। দরপত্র সিডিউল আগামী ০৫-০৪-৯৪ ইং তারিখ অফিস চলাকালীন সময় পর্যন্ত তত্তাবধায়ক প্রকৌশলী (রক্ষণাবেক্ষণ), এলজিইডি, ৪/৫, লালমাটিয়া, ব্লক-বি, ঢাকা, নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, জেলা-হবিগঞ্জ/সুনামগঞ্জ/মৌলভীবাজার ও অত্র জেলাধীন থানা প্রকৌশলীর দপ্তর এবং নিম্নসাক্ষরকারীর দপ্তর হইতে নির্ধারিত নগদ মূল্যে (অফেরতযোগ্য) ক্রয় করা যাইবে দরপত্রসমূহ আগামী ০৬-০৪-৯৪ইং তারিখ বেলা ১-৩০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত উপরোক্ত দপ্তরসমূহের নির্ধারিত দরপত্র বাক্সে গৃহীত হইবে এবং ঐ দিনই বেলা ২-০০ ঘটিকার সময় উপস্থিত দরদাতা বা তাহাদের প্রতিনিধিগণের (যদি উপস্থিত থাকেন) সমূৰে খোলা হইবে। দরপত্র গ্রহণের দিন কোন দরপত্র সিডিউল বিক্রি করা হইবে না। দরপত্রে আইটেম ওয়ারী বিস্তারিত ও যথায়থ দর বিশ্লেষণসহ ইউনিট রেইট উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে। উদ্ধৃত মোট মূল্যের উপর ২.৫% (শতকরা দুই দশমিক পাঁচ ভাগ) হারে আর্নেস্টমানি সিডিউল বাণিজ্যিক ব্যাংক হইতে বিভি/সিডি আকারে নির্বাহী প্রকৌশলী, এলজিইডি, সিলেট বরাবরে টেভারের সাথে জমা দিতে হইবে। কার্যাদেশ জারীর পূর্বে আর্নেস্টমানির জমাকৃত **অর্থসহ উদ্ধৃত মোট মুল্লোর উপর জামানত বাবদ মোট** ১০% (শতকরা দশ ভাগ) অর্থ কৃতকার্য ঠিকাদার কর্তৃক ৩ (তিন) কার্যদিবসের মধ্যে বিভি/সিভি আকারে নিম্নসাক্ষরকারীর বরাবরে জ**মা** দিতে হইবে।

মূল্য সংযোজন কর আইন ১৯৯১ (১৯৯১ ইং সনের ২২ নং আইন) এর দ্বিতীয় তফসিলের অধিনম্থ শিরোনাম সংখ্যা ০০৪ এর বিপরীতে উল্লেখিত মূল্য সংযোজন কর আদায় সংক্রান্ত সিদ্ধান্তসমূহ কার্যকর হইবে,। প্রকল্পসমূহের বাস্তবায়ন কাজ চলতি অর্থ বৎসরের মধ্যেই সমাপ্ত করিতে হইবে। কার্যাদেশ প্রদানের ৭ (সাত) দিনের মধ্যে কাজ তক্ত না করিলে কার্যাদেশ বাতিল ও জামানতের অর্থ বাজেয়াপ্তপূর্বক নতুন ঠিকাদার নিয়োগ করা হইবে। কার্যসম্পাদনের প্রতিটি পর্যায়ে সময়সীমা উল্লেখপূর্বক ওয়ার্ক সিডিউল দরপত্রের সহিত সংযুক্ত করিয়া দিতে হইবে নতুবা দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে। কর্তপক্ষের অনুমোদন সাপেকে বর্ণিত দরপত্র আহ্বান করা হইয়াছে, বিধায় উহার যে কোন আইটেম বা স্কীম পরিবর্তন/বাতিল করা হইতে পারে। এই দরপত্র সংক্ষিপ্ত। কর্তপক্ষ কোন কারণ দর্শানো ব্যতিরেকে যে কোন দরপত্র গ্রহণ বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা সংরক্ষণ করেন।

काम नर	কামের নাম	সিঙিউলের মূল্য (টাকা)	বান্তবায়নের সময় (দিন)
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এডিপি–৩২ ১৩–১৪	বিয়ানীবাজার–চন্দরপুর–ঢাকা দক্ষিণ রাস্তা বিটুমিনাস কার্পেটিং ইত্যাদি দ্বারা উনুয়ন কাজ (চেইনেজ ৪৮৪০–৫৮৪০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত)।	220.00	৬০ (বাট)
এডিপি–৩৩ ১৩–৯৪	সিলেট-বিয়ানীবাজার আরএইচডি রাস্তা হইতে বৈরাগীরবাজার পর্যন্ত রাস্তা বিটুমিনাস কার্পেটিং ইত্যাদি দারা উন্নয়ন কাজ (চেইনেজ ০০-১০০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত)।	>20.00	৬০ (ৰাট)
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विजि∸७¢ ७७-৯8	আরএইচডি রাস্তা (মৃল্লাপাড়া) হইতে বারইগ্রাম রাস্তা বিটুমিনাস কার্পেটিং ইত্যাদি দারা উনুয়ন কাজ (চেইনেজ ৯০০–১৭০০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত)।	\$000,00	৬০ (ৰাট)
গ্রডিপি–৩৬ ১৩–১৪	আরএইচড়ি রাস্তা (মৃল্লাপাড়া) হইতে বারইগ্রাম রাস্তা বিটুমিনাস কার্পেটিং ইত্যাদি হারা উনুয়ন কাজ (চেইনেজ ১৭০০–২৫০০ মিঃ পর্যন্ত)।	2000.00	৬০ (ষাট)
এডিপি–৩৭ ১৩–১৪	বালাগন্ধ থানাধীন বুরুংগা বাজার ইউনিয়নস্থ বুরুংগা রাস্তায় আরসিসি বঙ্ক/ কালভাট নির্মাণ কাজ।	\$000.00	৯০ (নবই)
\$125 B		মোঃ লোকমান হাকিম নিৰ্বাহী প্ৰকৌশলী	
ডিএফপি (জি)	eser-39/0	স্থানীয় সরকার প্রকৌশল অধিদপ্তর	

Jing Tianliang, President of the China National Coal Industry Import and Export Corp. said China would this year boost exports of coal to increase foreign exchange ear-

Coal exports of 18.7 million tonnes in 1993 earned 632 million dollars.

Exports in January and 47 per cent and 40 per cent Jing said.

"China is the world's largest also be a big exporter," the ofdespite improvements in re-

The coal trade will becoming increasingly competitive in the future and prices will fall as worldwide supply outstrips demand and energy conservation is prioritized, he said.

said. China's exports of coal

quality, low-price coal as well

as efficient, timely service, he

Beijing to boost exports of coal this year

BEIJING, Mar 28: China must improve the quality of its coal output to boost exports as competition grows on international markets, an industry was quoted as saying today, reports

Sunday, reports AFP.

February of 1.4 million tonnes and 1.5 million tonnes were up on the same months last year

coal producer and it should ficial told a three-day conference here, but added that quality remained too low-grade cent years.

In order to compete. China would need to produce high-

made up 1.64 per cent of total output of 1.14 billion tonnes last year, the report said.

Crude oil prices may fall by over 50 pc

GENEVA, Mar 28: Crude oil prices could fall by 50 to 75 cents a barrel this ...ek on OPEC's decision to maintain its current output levels for the remainder of 1994, but should recover after the summer, market analysts said

The 12-nation Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) ended two days of sometimes tense talks here late Saturday agreeing to roll over its present production ceiling of 24.52 million barrels a day (MBD) through the fourth quarter.

Crude prices have recently been down by roughly 25 per cent from year-earlier levels. causing growing hardship for financially strapped producers both inside and outside OPEC.

But attempts by a majority of mainly non-Gulf OPEC members to work out a deal that would lift prices by restraining supply were blocked by OPEC's heavyweight, Saudi Arabia, keen on defending its market share. Analysts agreed with oil in-

dustry executives watching the Geneva talks that the roll-over of the ceiling for nine months - rather than three or six months - was a positive factor. It was a "marginal plus," and should help a year-end

pickup, one London-based ana-

"It could turn out to be positive if all (OPEC members) stick to their quotas," Vienna-

lyst said.

based consultant Bahman Karbassioun commented. But he said financial pres-

sure on many OPEC governments " is such that many will be forced to over-produce." OPEC Secretary General Subroto, anticipating such a

problem, sought to forestall it

by insisting in the final round

of talks that member coun-

tries recommit themselves to

"strict adherence" to quotas. Questioned by reporters, the current OPEC President, Abdullah Bin Hamad al-Attiyah of Qatar, said Sunday he was confident the market would steady, as the ministers gave "assurances of a closer adherence" to agreed produc-

tion levels. Senior OPEC officials said the ministers agreed to put more muscle into OPEC's control procedures by agreeing that cheaters should be penalized, for instance by making public their real production figures.

watchers said such countries as Nigeria. Venezuela and the United Arab Emirates, and some smaller producers, including Qatar, were likely to exceed their quotas. According to one source.

Iran might not cheat "for the

simple reason they don't have

sustainable capacity" much be-

But even so, veteran OPEC

yond its quota. OPEC and delegation sources acknowledged that the decision to roll over the cur-

on OPEC move, predict analysts rent production ceiling was an exercise in damage limitation.

Allowing the ministers to

leave Geneva without making

any decision would have in-

vited a "free-for-all", Subroto told a Saturday night news conference. OPEC sources said it was Subroto's idea that the ceiling he extended until year-end.

pected element in the final outc. me here.

which was the only unex-

This was the best we could do under the circumstances", Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazer told reporters on Saturday.

ters of Indonesia, Iran, Libya, Kuwait and Venezuela that Saudi Arabia would not cut from its quota of eight MBD. The Saudis, they said, consider this as their fair share of OPEC output, notably in light of Iraq's eventual return to the market when the

United Nations lifts the em-

bargo imposed after Iraq in-

vaded Kuwait in August 1990.

OPEC delegation sources

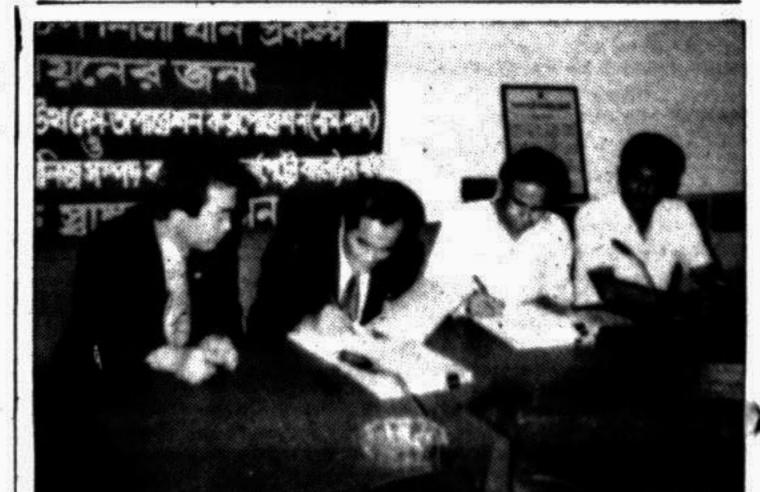
said the Saudis had allowed

discussion of a production cut

until midday Saturday, when

Al-Attivah informed a private

meeting attended by minis-



Secretary of Petrobangla Abdul Jalil Khan and Director-in-Charge of Nam Nam of North Korea seen signing an agreement in the city on Sunday for implementation of the Madhyapara hardrock mining project.