

**BOL announces  
another major  
investment**

Bangladesh Oxygen Limited announces another major investment in a fully integrated welding electrode manufacturing plant to be sited besides its recent investment of a 30 Ton Per Day Liquid Oxygen plant, says a press release.

The plant will be able to produce all types of welding electrodes of the highest international quality, needed now as well as in the future, particularly the types needed for the construction of the Jamuna Multipurpose Bridge.

This plant will be the largest in the country, capable of producing the country's entire requirement in one shift, and future demands for many years.

The plant is being imported from ESAB of Sweden, who is the largest welding product manufacturer in the world. ESAB will also provide technical assistance to BOL for operation of the plant, as well as technical knowhow and manufacturing support for all types of electrodes, under a technical aid agreement.

BOL will thus have access to the world's best source of technological expertise in this field.

**Cost & Management  
Accounts team  
meets Biswas**

A delegation of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants of Bangladesh called on President Abdur Rahman Biswas at Bangabhaban yesterday, reports BSS.

Taking to them, President Biswas underlined the importance of the cost and management accountancy in ascertaining the financial and management viability of an organisation. He said that this is the era of specialisation and those who specialise can contribute substantially to their respective fields.

Earlier, in a memorandum the chairman of the institute cost and management accounts appraised the President of some of their professional difficulties. President gave them a patient hearing and assured to look into the matter.

The delegation included, among others, Chowdhury Hafizur Rahman, chairman of the institute, Habibur Rahman, Muzaffar Ahmed, Mohammad Ishaq, Mohammad Mohiuddin, M Abul Kalam Muzamdar, Mohammad Yusuf Ali Mia, M Rafiqul Hasan, A S M Shaikhul Islam, A K M Delwar Hussain and Golam Mahub Alam.

**Gov Wilson sues  
US to recoup  
prison costs**

LOS ANGELES, June 1: The US government owes the state of California nearly 370 million dollar for the cost of providing health care to illegal immigrants, Gov. Pete Wilson claimed in a lawsuit filed Tuesday, reports Xinhua.

In April, Wilson filed a lawsuit seeking to recoup prison costs. He plans a third lawsuit dealing with education.

"It is time the federal government starts to enforce the nation's immigration laws," Wilson said.

In filing the lawsuit, California joins six other states — Florida, New York, New Jersey, Illinois, Arizona and Texas — in either taking legal action or planning to do so to get more money from the federal government to cover the costs of caring for illegal immigrants.

Immigrant rights say there is virtually no legal basis for the suit and note that the action came at a time when the Republican governor is running for re-election.

"This is to get a story and headlines and show that he is trying to do something on this issue," said Charles Wheeler, directing attorney for the National Immigration Law Centre. "It's entirely for political reasons."

US Justice Department spokesman Carl Stern said the Clinton Administration hasn't shut the door on the issue.

"We are working very closely with California and several other states to try to reduce the burden and to make headway against the problem of illegal immigration," Stern said. "We welcome any cooperative efforts the governor wishes to undertake with us."

The lawsuit seeks the 369.8 million dollars that state officials say California will spend in the current fiscal year to provide emergency medical services to an estimated 308,000 illegal immigrants.

**Vigorous research on production  
of wheat suggested**

Experts at a technical seminar in the city yesterday stressed the need for promoting wheat production forcefully in areas of the country where it was shown to have a comparative advantage from the perspective of economic efficiency, reports BSS.

In this respect, they suggested more vigorous research with a view to making available appropriate genetic material and crop management practices for the growers and strengthening the economic incentives.

The day-long technical seminar titled "Comparative advantage of wheat in Bangladesh: Technological, economic and policy issues" was held at Sonargaon Hotel with the participation of high government officials and

representatives of donor agencies.

International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI) and International Maize and Wheat Improvement Centre (CIMMYT) jointly organised the seminar under the auspices of Bangladesh-Australia wheat improvement project.

The First Secretary of Australian High Commission in Dhaka, Fabia Shah, conducted the seminar as the Chairman. Additional Secretary of the Ministry of Agriculture Ahsan Ali Sarker was the chief guest while former planning minister Dr Fashuddin Mahtab was the special guest.

Dr Nuimuddin Chowdhury of IFPRI, Dr Michael Morris and Dr Craig A Melsner of CIMMYT presented a draft of their study on assessment of

economic efficiency of wheat production in Bangladesh.

They said wheat was representing an attractive option for farmers especially in areas where boro rice could not be grown although irrigated wheat could not be able to compete with boro rice in areas where agro-climatic factors favoured boro rice production.

Perhaps more importantly, the experts said, our results suggest that in certain areas wheat production represents an efficient use of domestic resources and as such deserves to be promoted by the government.

The plot-level data including crop rotation, topography and soil characteristics were collected from 421 farms throughout the country's wheat growing areas in an effort

to identify factors which were driving farmers' planning decisions and influencing the relative profitability of wheat vs alternative crops, the seminar was told.

"Should Bangladesh become a consistent exporter of rice, the comparative advantage of wheat will extend to irrigated areas in Sherpur, Jamalpur, Bogra, Mymensingh, Sirajganj and Tangail (Zone-2) and Rajbari, Meherpur, Chuadanga, Jhenidah and Satkhira (Zone-4).

The experts said currently the case for wheat was particularly strong in non-irrigated areas which were utilised for boro rice and also in Manikganj, Comilla, Chandpur, Madaripur and Shariatpur (Zone-3).

**Tk 192 cr PHE  
projects in  
progress**

The implementation of 25 development projects of the directorate of Public Health Engineering (PHE) at a cost of Tk 192 crore is in progress during the current financial year, reports BSS.

This was informed at the 24th Parliamentary Standing Committee meeting on LGRD and Cooperatives Ministry at the Jatiya Sangsad Tuesday with LGRD and Cooperatives Minister Barrister Abdus Salam Talukder in the chair.

The meeting was informed that the directorate has installed a total of 50 thousand new tubewells and rehabilitated another 40 thousand during the current year at a cost of Tk 127 crore. The directorate has a plan to sink 6.47 lakh new tubewells by the year 2000 to make one tubewell available for every 75 persons.

**Tea market strong in Ctg**

CHITTAGONG, June 1: The weekly tea sale Tuesday met with a strong demand at higher prices. Market was strong with useful support from internal as well as Pakistan and outmarkets, reports UNB.

But Russian and Polish buyers were absent from the auction resulting in withdrawal of large and bold broken.

Bright feature of the sale as the keen demand for bright liquoring teas which sold at satisfactory levels.

Experts viewed that market will not strengthen as expected if major foreign buyers like Russia, Poland, Iran, Pakistan, Jordan do not actively participate in the auction.

CTC: Large and bold broken were generally neglected owing to lack of bids while mediums were on good demand offering higher price. Good liquoring and small broken has strong demand and sold at Tk two higher price. A

small quantity of popular types attracted keen competition and sold at Tk 54.50 to Tk 57.40.

All primary fannings met with a strong demand particularly for the better liquoring types which were dearer by up to Tk two. Popular types were also dearer and sold at Tk 54.50 to Tk 61.50.

Dust: 3,817 chests, 24 paper sacks on offer met with better demand. Improved liquoring RD/PDs sold at firm to dearer rates while others were occasionally easier. Smaller grades attracted more interest at higher rates. Internal buyers operated strongly with limited interest emanating from blenders.

Total 16,036 chests, 15 paper sacks and 40 chest of old season were on offer for auction.

Next auction will be held on June 7.



Dr Michael Morris, Regional Economist, CIMMYT, deliberating his keynote speech on the "Comparative Advantage of Wheat in Bangladesh: Technological, Economic and Policy Issues" at a technical seminar sponsored by the Bangladesh-Australia-Wheat Improvement Project held at Sonargaon Hotel yesterday.

**War over  
Israeli  
diamond**

TEL AVIV, June 1: Russia and the powerful Anglo-South African conglomerate De Beers have for months been waging a war over diamonds in Israel, the world's largest diamond-cutting center, experts say.

The battleground is located in the two ultra-modern skyscrapers that house the diamond exchange in the Tel Aviv suburb of Ramat Gan.

The Russians, who produce a quarter of the world's uncut diamonds, have stepped up their black market sales in Israel.

Secret transactions worth 40 million dollars were recently carried out in Israel in violation of an agreement between Moscow and De Beers, a diamond expert who declined to be identified told AFP.

According to their agreement which expires in 1995, the "syndicate," as De Beers is known, can market 95 per cent of Russia's production with the remaining five per cent sold freely at auctions in Moscow.

"The Russians, who are in desperate need of hard currency and want to extract better terms from De Beers, have begun to secretly export diamonds," a senior diamond exchange official said.

"There have been black market sales, but of marginal quantities," said Exchange President Yitzhak Forem.

**Vietnam raises  
rice export**

HANOI, June 1: Vietnam exported about 200,000 tonnes of rice in May, some 70 per cent more than in May 1993, the official Vietnam news agency said today, reports Reuter.

It said this took total exports in the first five months of 1994 to 750,000 tonnes. About 90 per cent of rice exported this year was high-grade compared with about 60 per cent last year, it said.

Vietnam, the world's third largest rice exporter, grew about 22 million tonnes this year. It exported 17 million tonnes in 1993 and forecasts two million tonnes in 1994.

The agency said US trade companies were studying the Vietnamese rice market to sign long-term and stable contracts. Vietnam has already sent at least one shipment of 16,000 tonnes to an American buyer.

**Dollar, stocks  
up in Tokyo**

TOKYO, June 1: The Tokyo Stock Exchange's main index set a 1994 high closing for the third straight day Wednesday, while the US dollar edged higher against the Japanese yen, reports AP.

The 225-issues Nikkei Stock Average gained 79.52 points, or 0.38 per cent, closing at 21,053.11. The previous highest close for this year was set Tuesday, when the Nikkei closed at 20,973.59, up 134.62 points, or 0.65 per cent, from the previous day.

In Wednesday's trading, the average was down 66 points on profit-taking early in the session after three consecutive sessions of gains.

**HBFC zones expanded into four**

Shah Abdul Hannan, Deputy Governor, Bangladesh Bank has inaugurated the reconstituted zonal offices of House Building Finance Corporation yesterday, says a press release.

The former zones 'A' & 'B' have been re-organised and expanded into four zones.

The loan cases bearing digital numbers have been re-numbered.

The new zones went into operation from yesterday and the expansion schedule has been initiated with a view to facilitating speedy disposal of cases.

Besides, ensuring speedy

disposal of cases, the zones are expected to be able to reach the recovery target under re-organisation and expansion of zones.

The areas that have been included into four zones are: Zone-1: Gulshan, Uttara, Cantonment and Dhanmondi Thana. Zone-2: Pallabi, Mirpur and Mohammadpur Thana. Zone-3: Tejgaon, Ramna, Motijheel, Sabujbag, Demra, Lalbag, Sutrapur and Kotwali Thana. Zone-4: All other places of old Dhaka district excluding Dhaka Metropolitan area and existing areas under Faridpur, Mymensingh, Ja-

malpur and Tangail regional offices.

The prospective applicants of the re-organised areas will henceforth contact the respective offices of the four zones.

The Deputy Governor addressed the senior officials on the occasion. He observed that the housing sector has manifold problems. HBFC could not play its rightful role in the past in solution, of housing problem owing to its limitations. He identified two main factors which are mainly responsible for this (1) lack of mobilization of necessary funds and (2) the usual constraint of manpower.



Shah Abdul Hannan, Deputy Governor of Bangladesh Bank inaugurated the reconstituted zones of the Bangladesh House Building Finance Corporation in the city yesterday. Suhel Ahmed, Managing Director of HBFC is seen on his right.

**UN offers new strategies to heal ailing world**

WASHINGTON, June 1: New strategies to heal an ailing world might include a global income tax and penalty fees for adding to the Third World brain drain, reports AP.

A United Nations report published Wednesday makes such proposals and says the world has squandered a one trillion dollars opportunity from the end of the Cold War to convert military spending to development of humanity.

The annual Human Development Report is strongly critical of most US and other foreign aid programmes, saying countries that need the most help don't get it — all they get is guns.

It also warns of extreme social disparities in South Africa, Brazil, Nigeria and India similar to that which led to violence in Mexico's impoverished state of Chiapas.

In the UN Development Programme's 5th annual ranking of the world's coun-

tries on a human development index, Canada moves into first place, replacing Japan, which is now third behind Switzerland. The United States slips from No. 6 to No. 8.

Other countries where people are deemed to live better than Americans are Sweden, Norway, France and Australia. The rankings of all industrialised countries are very close together, however, with Third World countries trailing down the list.

Still at the bottom is Guinea, where life expectancy is 33 years less than for countries at the top of the list.

The annual index of 173 countries is a measure of how long people live, how much they are educated and how much they can afford to buy. It is touted as a more telling measure of quality of life than economic figures such as the gross national product.

Overall, the report finds a world spending too much on

national security and too little on human security.

"We really aren't taking advantage of the end of the Cold War," said James Gustave Speth, an American in his first year as UNDP administrator.

"There doesn't seem to have been a fair share of this previously international money captured for a new set of international priorities — poverty elimination, environmental deterioration, drug trafficking, nuclear proliferation, population, preventive development to head-off peace keeping need," Speth said in an interview.

The report, published in eight languages and widely used by government leaders and non-government groups, calls for an end to all military assistance in three years and further 3 per cent annual reductions in military expenditures to create another peace dividend by the end of the century of 460 billion dollars.

This time, the savings should be tracked and allocated by a "human security fund" and spent to make the world a better place to live, the report said.

Among proposals made in the report for improving world living standards is a one-tenth of one per cent world income tax, with the proceeds to go to poorer countries.

"We need a global safety net for the poor," said Speth. He said the proposals, including a fee schedule for countries contributing to the brain drain, are meant to challenge the world to think of solutions to such problems.

Internationally set payments for luring away a country's elite could be based on the idea that wealthy countries ought to pay "compensation for damages" to countries harmed by their immigration and trade policies.

Another suggestion in a small international tax on all

cross-border financial transactions, with the proceeds going to alleviate global problems.

Despite its focus on the urgent need to attack global problems in the post-Cold War era, the report notes some striking successes, some of them credited to foreign assistance programmes.

Progress in global food production, road building, power generation, health care and family planning have led to major progress in human development over the last three decades, the report said.

It notes that infants are twice as likely to live as they were three decades ago, life expectancy in developing countries rose from 46 years in 1960 to 63 years in 1992, and adult literacy increased from 46 per cent to 69 per cent.

The list of the 10 countries that have made the most

improvement in three decades is diverse: Malaysia, Botswana, South Korea, Tunisia, Thailand, Syria, Turkey, China, Portugal and Iran.

Countries listed as deep in crisis include Afghanistan, Angola, Burma, Haiti, Iraq, Mozambique, Sudan and Zaire.

The report also points to

wide disparities among racial and ethnic groups and among regions, even in the most prosperous countries.

No. 1 Canada has tribal groups in its northern territories who have an average life expectancy 5.6 years lower and earn one-third less than the national average, the report said.

The report was prepared for UNDP by an independent team of economists and includes sections by several Nobel Prize winners. Its principle author is Mahbubul Haq, former finance and planning minister of Pakistan.

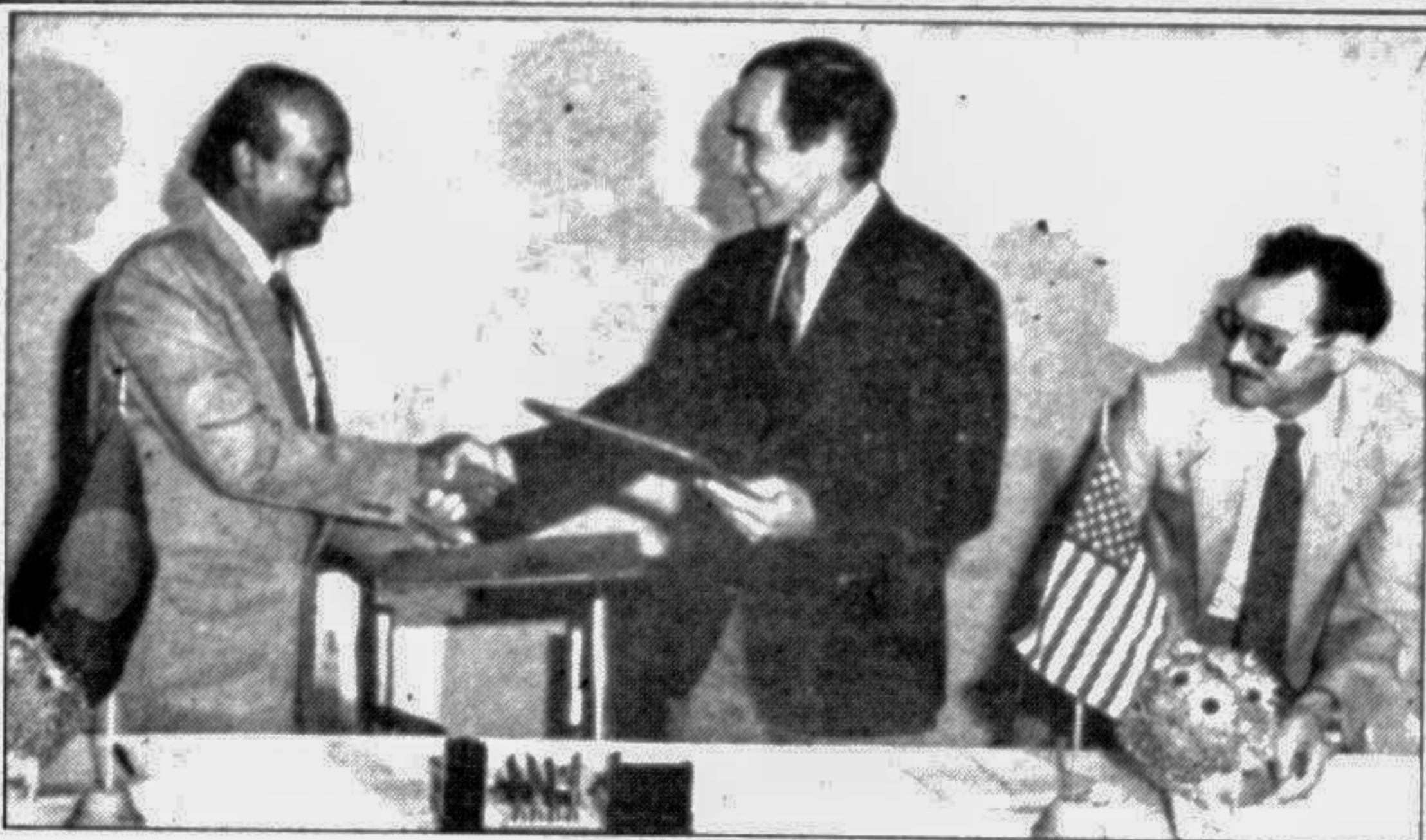
**Iran reschedules  
payments of \$10b  
foreign debts**

TEHRAN, June 1: Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani said here yesterday that Iran has rescheduled payments of 10 billion US dollars foreign debts, reports Xinhua.

While meeting with lecturers and students at the Amir Kabir Industrial University, he said "our foreign debts are about 17 billion US dollars. We can pay back three billion US dollars every year."

"We have rescheduled our foreign debts at a profit rate of less than five per cent and we hope that the country's problems would be resolved by the year 2000," he added.

This is the first time for the Iranian president to give such a promise to the outside world. Germany, Japan, South Korea and other countries have agreed on the reschedule of payments for overdue debts.



Dr Saadat Husain, Additional Secretary, Economic Relations Division (ERD), Ministry of Finance, and Richard Brown, Director, United States Agency for International Development (USAID), exchanging documents after signing a grant agreement in Dhaka yesterday. Under the grant signed at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, the US will provide 223,000 metric tons of wheat to Bangladesh this year. David Atwood, chief of Agriculture and Food Policy Division, USAID, is also seen in the picture.

**US to give Bangladesh 223,000 MT  
of wheat this year**

The United States has agreed to provide 223,000 metric tons of food aid wheat to Bangladesh this year. Including shipping costs from the United States, the wheat is

valued at 44.6 million dollar, says a USIS press release.

The grant for the 1994 wheat was signed today at Sher-e-Bangla Nagar by Dr Saadat Hussain, the Additional

Secretary of the Economic Relations Division of the Ministry of Finance and by Richard M Brown, the Director of the US Agency for International Development in Bangladesh.

**DSE suspends trading in  
shares of Ctg Cement**

Trading in shares of Chittagong Cement Clinker Grinding Company Limited, a listed company of Dhaka Stock Exchange (DSE), has been temporarily suspended, reports UNB.

The council of DSE in an emergency meeting decided to effect the suspension from yesterday until further notice following the price of the share being unduly depressed in a crisis.

The price per share declined sharply to Tk 292.09 from Tk 444.85 in last few days due to alleged malpractice by the company with the general shareholders.

The shareholders of the company had to incur loss of Tk 152.76 per share due to the decline which also created adverse impact on the share market, sources at DSE said.

In April this year, the company's balance sheet for the last six months of FY 1992-93 showed a profit of Tk 2.50 crore constituting 25 per cent

of its paid up capital of Tk 8.60 crore.

It attracted the general investors to Chittagong Cement Clinker company and the price of its share shot up to Tk 450 for the last few days.

However, the company announced on Sunday that it would award 10 per cent profit to every share for fiscal 1992-93. The price per share at the trading floor of DSE dropped with the announcement prompting many shareholders to sell out their shares.

Only 470 shares were traded at a rate of Tk 444.85 on Saturday but 1,550 shares were traded on the following day. As the trend continued, some 2015 shares were traded on Monday while 5,500 on Tuesday.

Investors reacted sharply to this "unfair" practice, saying that this would not protect the interest of small investors and they would be disinterested in the share market.