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**HYUNDAI**

CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

Fear of production-fall raises raw jute prices by 50pc

By Rafiq Hasan

The fear of a fall in production has shot up prices of raw jute in the country by 50 per cent on an average this year compared to that of previous year.

The price increased because the government and trade circle apprehended that the overall raw jute production may face a shortfall of 10 lakh bales this year due to drought and floods, market operators said.

According to Tuesday's market report of the Bangladesh Jute Association (BJA), prices of different grades of Kutcha White jute range between Taka 500 and 620, prices of Tossa between Taka 550 and 680 and Meshta between Taka 450 and 550 per maund.

Prices of different grades of Pucca jute range from Tk 3000 to 41000 per bale — while cuttings are being sold between Tk 2000 and 2100 per bales at Narayanjanj and Daulatdia wholesale markets.

During the same period of last season, prices of different grades of Kutcha jute were sold between Taka 200 and 300 less than the present prices.

The prices of Pucca jute varied from 600 to 700 less per bale.

The jute growers are getting better price this time after about six years of dull period. Prices were high from the very beginning of the current season, Rezaul Karim, Vice President of the BJA said.

He said the prices may go up further as there is huge demand for raw jute from

overseas buyers mainly from Pakistan, India and China in addition to our local consumers — the jute mills.

According to the BJA

leader, the quality of raw jute this year is on average normal but he mentioned that some moist jute was coming at Khulna and Daulatdia markets.

Due to the drought during the sowing period this year, the government estimated earlier that the production of raw jute would decline and the total output would not exceed 37 lakh bales.

During the last fiscal year a total of 52 lakh bales of raw jute were produced in the country.

This year the government-owned jute mills have set a buying target of 16 lakh bales while the spinning mills intend to buy another 14 lakh bales. Moreover, an export target of 15 lakh bales has been fixed this year. Besides, another two to three lakh bales will be required for household use.

According to the Directorate of Jute, the land under jute cultivation has also been reduced to 10.83 lakh acres this year from 14 lakh acres of the previous season.

Due to a production shortfall in the neighbouring India this year, the jute traders also apprehend that huge amount of raw jute could be smuggled out across the border.

India would need at least about 10 lakh bales of raw jute to meet its internal demand. Meanwhile, internal jute prices in India has already registered increased and now it stands around Taka 250 to 1350 per quintal, jute traders said.

According to the BJA, a total of 1.7 lakh bales of raw jute were exported till September this year bringing Taka 45.67 crore in foreign exchange.



Raw jute growers are expected to get a fairly reasonable price of their products this year. — Star photo

Eastern Tubes Ltd earns Tk 1.81 cr profit in '94-95

Eastern Tubes Ltd (ETL), an enterprise of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC), earned a profit of Tk 1.81 crore during the last fiscal, 1994-95, reports UNB.

This was informed when the State Minister for Industries Lutfur Rahman Khan was visiting the ETL at Tejgaon in the city yesterday.

The ETL has produced 9,65,312 units of fluorescent tubelight and paid Tk 2.79 crore as VAT and tax to the government exchequer, said a PID handout.

The State Minister directed the ETL authorities to take necessary steps to sustain the trend of profit and laid emphasis on coordination efforts of officers and employees for its overall development.

BSEC Acting Chairman A F M S Zaman, ETL Chairman Kamal Uddin and General manager S M Elahi Newaz were present.

US dollar lower against major Euro currencies

LONDON, Oct 4: The US dollar was mostly lower against other major currencies in European trading Wednesday morning, reports AP.

Dollar rates compared with late Tuesday: — 1.4367 German marks, down from 1.4409. — 100.93 Japanese yen, down from 101.63. — 1.1555 Swiss francs, down from 1.605. — 4.9610 French francs, down from 4.9709. — 1.6143 Dutch guilders, up from 1.6136. — 1611.50 Italian lire, down from 1,621.50. — 1.3315 Canadian dollars, up from 1.3283.

The British pound was quoted at 1.5808 dollar, down from 1.5810 dollars late Tuesday.

AFP from Tokyo adds: The dollar was range-bound against the yen and the mark here Wednesday afternoon, with the dollar's trading range gradually moving higher, dealers said.

The tone of the dollar is clearly firmer than yesterday, despite the existing upside barrier at 101.80 yen, said Masafumi Kurokawa, head of foreign exchange sales at the first national bank of Chicago.

He said sell orders lined up at 101.80 yen and above, where overseas investors, domestic life insurers and exporters waited to take profits.

Towards the end of trading, the dollar stood at 101.43 yen, down 101.65 yen in New York late Tuesday and 100.22 yen in Tokyo Tuesday afternoon. Against the mark, the US unit stood at 1.4396, against 1.4375 in New York late Tuesday and 1.4272 in Tokyo Tuesday.

Coke bottle becomes first 3-D trademark in UK

Trade Mark Announcement Makes Coca-Cola the 'Official Shape of Refreshment'

The world-famous Coca-Cola 'contour' bottle has been registered as the first ever UK, three-dimensional trademark, says a press release.

Coca-Cola, recognized by over 94 per cent of the world's population, has the exclusive right to use the world-famous Coca-Cola contour bottle shape. Synonymous with Coca-Cola since 1915, it has been dubbed 'the most familiar design icon in the history of consumer goods.'

Coca-Cola was invented in 1886 and was originally sold in syrup form to which soda water was added. Just over a century ago, in 1894, it was first sold in straight-sided bottles so that customers could enjoy the taste of Coca-Cola anytime and anywhere.

However, by the early 1900s, imitations of the premium product by competitors began. The answer, developed in 1915, was the unique 'contour' bottle which distinguished the 'real thing' from imitations.

Stephen Bayley, one of the world's foremost commentators on design, style and popular culture, said, 'the famous Coke bottle transcends fashion... it works well, looks good and is unlikely to be bettered. It is a genuine design classic.'

Business diplomacy a vital need to boost RMG sector

By Staff Correspondent

To face growing competition from other developing countries in the export of Ready Made Garments (RMG), Bangladesh should initiate urgently appropriate business diplomacy.

This was suggested by a keynote speaker at a seminar on 'Emerging Competitors and Bangladesh in Global Apparel Markets' held at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday.

The speaker, Dr Hafiz G A Siddiqi, said the role of our ambassadors, high commissioners, economic ministers and trade commissioners needs to be oriented towards aggressive business diplomacy combined with political diplomacy.

He said that Turkey, Poland, Vietnam and Caribbean Islands — the main emerging competitors to Bangladesh Garments — have entered into the US market through their good business diplomacy.

'If Bangladesh fails to initiate similar moves with her major buyers other aggressive

countries are likely to be its most powerful competitor in near future,' he mentioned.

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) arranged the seminar on the occasion of the on-going Bangladesh Apparel and Textile Exposure (BATEXPO). Presided over by Engineer M A Taher, Vice President of BGMEA, the seminar was also addressed by Dr Akber Ali Khan, Chairman, National Board of Revenue.

Giving an overall outlook on the development, prospect and weakness of the RMG sector in the country Hafiz G A Siddiqi, a professor and Dean of the North South University, said the country should formulate three strategies — cost reduction, product diversification and market diversification to face competition in global market.

The RMG sector particularly suffers from unusually

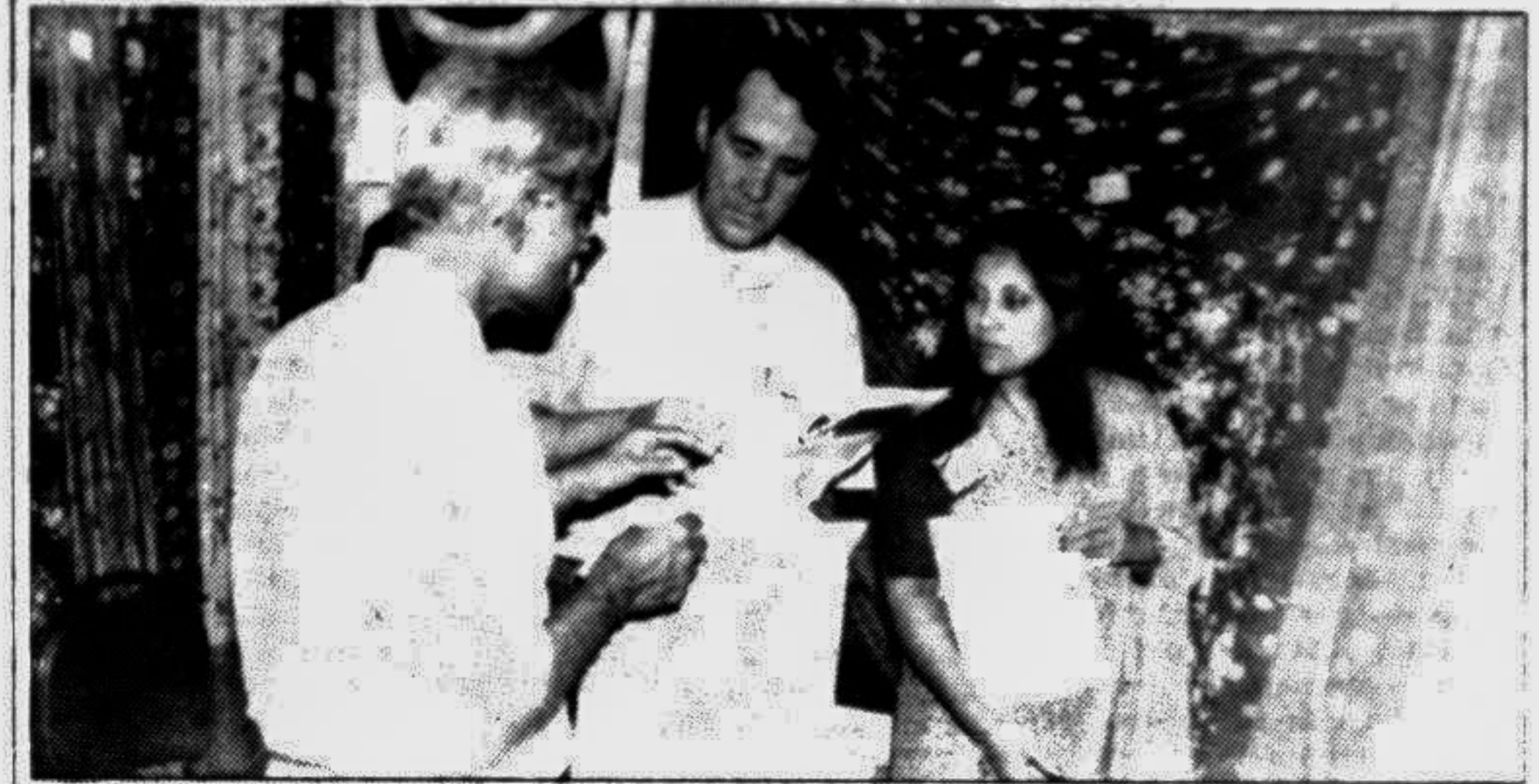
high dependence on foreign sources for basic raw materials, bureaucratic drags, wrong governments policies, undesirable political interferences resulting in strikes and hartals and inability to diversify products and market.

'Although the wages are low and competitive against other producing countries, Bangladeshi workers are not as efficient as those of Hong Kong, South Korea and Sri Lanka,' Hafiz Siddiqi said.

Expressing optimism about the further development of the RMG sector in the country Dr Akber Ali Khan said the young entrepreneurs can contribute a lot in this regard.

He said although there is a lack of raw materials for garments, Bangladeshi entrepreneurs have demonstrated their strength to develop garment industries in the country.

He also appreciated the role played by this sector in employment generation.



A foreign buyer (M) is observing the quality of local fabrics at the on-going garments exhibition BATEXPO '95 at Hotel Sonargaon yesterday. — Star photo

Tk 12 cr Norwegian grant to Dhaka

Bangladesh will receive Norwegian kroner 19.65 million equivalent to approximately Taka 12 crore from Norway as grant under an agreement signed here yesterday, reports BSS.

The amount will be utilised to meet the costs for the procurement of 6,800 kilometres of electric conductors for the Rural Electrification Board of Bangladesh.

AKM Rezaul Rahman Joint Secretary, Economic Relations Division, Ministry of Finance and Tore Toreng, Charge d' Affaires, Royal Norwegian Embassy, signed the agreement on behalf of the two government.

Daiwa Bank chief to resign for loss of \$ 1.1 b

TOKYO, Oct 4: The president of Daiwa Bank will resign to take responsibility for a rogue trader's stunning 1.1 billion dollar loss at its New York branch, news reports said Wednesday, reports AP.

Japan to give Tk 360cr soft term loan for 3 projects

Japan will provide 8,578 million yen, equivalent to about Tk 360 crore, to Bangladesh as soft term loan to finance three projects, including a rural credit programme to be managed by the Grameen Bank, reports UNB.

Three separate loan agreements were signed to this effect between the two countries in Tokyo yesterday, according to a faxed message received from the OECF (Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund of Japan).

Bangladesh ambassador to Japan SM Rashed Ahmed and OECF President Akira Nishigaki signed the accords on behalf of their respective governments.

The largest of the loans, which amounts to 5,442 million yen, or about Tk 229 crore, will fund a rural electrification project.

The Area Coverage Rural Electrification Project, Phase IV-C includes construction and rehabilitation of electricity distribution facilities, in-

stallation of substations and training for Palli Biddiyut Samity (PBS) staff.

The project covers three PBS operation in four districts — Rajshahi, Jhenidah, Lalmonirhat and Kurigram.

On completion of the project, about one lakh households in these districts, about 20 per cent population of the target areas, will have electricity by the year 2000.

The loan for the Rural Development Credit

BASIC disburses loan among women in Barisal

BRISAL, Oct 4: Barisal branch of Bangladesh Small and Cottage Industry Corporation (BASIC) disbursed Tk 29,53,500/- as loan among 652 women industrialists of Barisal district during the period from July 1990 to June 1995, reports BSS.

Programme amounts 2986 million yen, equivalent to about Tk 125 crore, to be executed by the Grameen Bank. Under the programme, small loans will be provided to the rural poor for house building and purchasing of tubewells and power tillers.

OECF experts said the rural credit programme will contribute 'very directly' to poverty alleviation in Bangladesh.

The third loan, amounting 150 million yen, or about Tk 6.3 crore, will fund consultancy services for construction of the proposed Pakshey Bridge on the river Padma at Bheramara, Kushtia.

All the three OECF loans are soft term charging a meagre one per cent interest rate and repayable in 30 years with 10-year grace period.

With these agreements, cumulative total of OECF loan commitments to Bangladesh now stands at 490,171 million yen, in 58 projects.

Industrialised nations accused of bribery

MANILA, Oct 4: A Berlin-based corruption watchdog on Tuesday criticized industrialised nation for bribing their way into business contracts in Asia, reports AFP.

Peter Eigen, Chairman of Transparency International, said that while internal corruption may not be as prevalent in Western nations as in developing countries, many in the West 'consider corruption a legitimate export activity.'

He told a regional conference on corruption here that some Western governments, including Germany, 'support, subsidize these activities in a normal upright way' and consider bribery 'a necessary and legitimate tool for international commerce.'

Eigen said many countries made overseas bribes tax deductible, and only the United States has a law against using bribery to win overseas contracts.

Transparency International, founded in 1993, to fight corruption in global business, has 40 chapters worldwide. Last month it published a list ranking countries according to corruption levels. New Zealand was deemed the least corrupt and Indonesia as the most

corrupt.

Francis Garchitorena, head of a special anti-graft court in the Philippines, told the conference that when Manila tried to investigate which Japanese firms were using bribes during the regime of the late President Ferdinand Marcos, Tokyo warned that aid flow would be affected if the probe continued.

Eigen said that to fight corruption, civic groups and governments must engage in a 'long-term' coalition and urged other countries to institute laws against corruption in international procurement.

'It is more important to put in place these systems rather than catch one big fish,' said Eigen, citing China's recent execution of 150 people for corruption over the past six months as an example of the futility of such sporadic anti-corruption campaigns.

He said that gift was 'not inherent in a culture or a tradition,' citing Nigeria and Zaire as examples of countries that 'were being destroyed by corruption' while a country like Botswana was doing better because the practice is under control.

Plight of LDCs to figure prominently in UN confce

UNITED NATIONS (New York), Oct 4: The miserable plight of the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) in the current global economic scenario and measures to overcome this situation is coming in for detailed discussions at the high level inter-governmental mid term global review meeting on the LDCs which has been going on for the last couple of days, reports BSS.

'We are discussing all the relevant issues' a conference source said. The meeting billed as crucial for the 48 Least Developed Countries and titled as 'Mid-term' global review of the implementation of the programme of action for the Least Developed Countries for the 1990s is expected to take a number of decisions on the progress of actions about economic hardships of the LDCs. Bangladesh is the coordinator for the LDCs and airs the view of the 48 nations clubbed in this group. Delegates are deliberating on issues like external debts, trade, relief measures etc.

The first United Nations sponsored conference in Paris in 1980 had adopted the Substantial New Programme of Action (SNPA) for the LDCs in the 1980s. Subsequently, the second such conference in Paris in 1990 adopted the programme of action for the LDCs. The current meeting on the LDCs by the global community is

taking place halfway through the decade to review the progress made during the last five years.

The positive aspects of the LDCs like the process of structural adjustment and wide ranging reforms are being pointed out by the LDCs at the conference while lamenting the lack of progress in fulfilling the pledges made to the LDCs by the international community. The socio-economic difficulties being faced by the LDCs due to slow progress in the implementation of the 'Programme of action' are being highlighted at the conference.

The two week long global mid term review meeting

here was chaired on October 26 by the United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and is being chaired by Norwegian Minister for Development Cooperation Nordheim Larsen.

The programme of action for the LDCs in the Paris meeting in 1990 was drawn up against the backdrop of a sharp decline in the socio-economic conditions of the LDCs in world economic scenario. Most of the least developed countries strongly feel that their economic conditions and predicaments have not been adequately addressed to even though the global economy is well on its way to a broad-based recovery.

Philippines, Taiwan reach labour accord

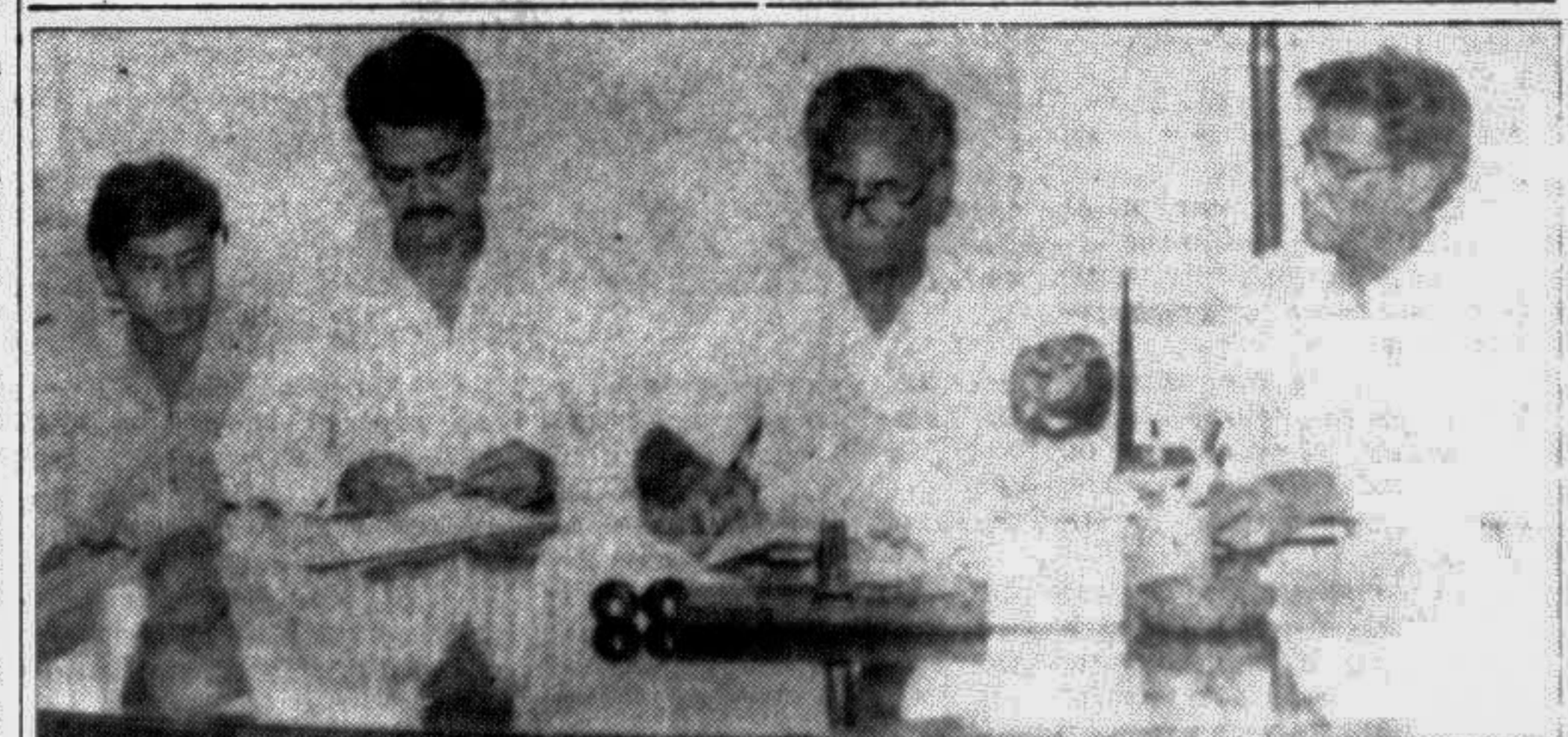
DAVAO CITY, Philippines, Oct 4: The Philippines and Taiwan have reached an agreement allowing Taiwanese firms to directly hire Filipino workers, a Filipino official says, reports AP.

Armando Fernandez, the chief representative of the Manila Economic and Cultural Office in Taipei, told reporters here late Tuesday that a memorandum of agreement covering the new labour hiring scheme will be signed in Manila next month. Although the Philippines

has similar deals with other countries, this is the first one with Taiwan, Fernandez said.

Fernandez arrived with a group of Taiwanese travel agents, journalists and officers of Taiwan's Air Palau on the airline's inaugural flight to this southern port city.

Under the agreement, a Taiwanese company planning to hire foreign workers will present its requirement to the Philippines' Department of Labour and Employment, which will then submit a list of potential workers.



Masud Alam Siddique, Secretary, BSFC, and Md Farid Khan, Managing Director of Sanguine Traders, signed, on behalf of their respective organisations, the agreement in the city on Monday under which the Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation will export 10 thousand tons of molasses to India. Moazzem Hossain, Chief (Sales), BSFC, is also seen in the picture.

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Addendum
to
Tender Notice for Minting and Supply of Finished 1 (one) Taka Bangladesh Coin

The following addendum is hereby issued to the Tender Notice, published in the four dailies (The Daily Sangbad, The Janakantha, The Daily Star and The Financial Express) on the 30th and 31st August, 1995 inviting quotations from interested reputable Mints for minting and supply of Finished Bangladesh 1(one) Taka Coin:

7 (a). Performance Bond in the format to be supplied by Bangladesh Bank will have to be furnished by the successful tenderer amounting to 5% (Five per cent) of the quoted amount only on signing of the contract in the form of Bank Guarantee from any scheduled bank in Bangladesh, to be issued against a guarantee of the first class international bank abroad; and shall initially remain valid up to eighteen months from the date of issue of the same.

The other terms and conditions including last date of submission of quotation will remain unchanged.

Ansaruddin Ahmed
General Manager
Currency Management &
Accounts Department
Phone: 238770

PR & PB 48/95-173
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