

Lack of organised approach seen vital reason

Vast potentialities in shrimp culture yet to be tapped

From Nurul Alam

CHITTAGONG, Oct 24: Vast potentialities in the field of shrimp culture in the country's coastal belts reportedly remained untapped due to lack of organised approach to this foreign revenue earning sector, concerned sources said.

"The country can achieve to earn Taka 4,000 crore per annum by exporting shrimps abroad before the end of this century if shrimp cultivation could be made in a comprehensive and integrated way," said Syed Mahmudul Huq, former President of Bangladesh Frozen Foods Exporters Association (BFPEA) while talking exclusively with this correspon-

dent at his office at Agrabad. Presently, the country earns Taka 1,000 crore per annum by exporting around 30,000 tons of shrimps, reports available here said.

"The government should come forward to ensure harmonious development of shrimp cultivation by way of more providing infrastructural facilities along with organisational and credit supports," Huq observed. He suggested setting up shrimp estates with cluster of farms to ensure a balanced growth in shrimp culture.

Some entrepreneurs from Singapore, Thailand and Taiwan were interested to invest in joint venture

shrimp estates in Bangladesh. They evinced keen interest during a meeting held recently in Singapore where a delegation from frozen food sector from Bangladesh participated.

Huq further informed that due to over supply in the overseas markets prices of Bangladeshi frozen foods had suffered a slump. "So, to compete in the international markets, our yield should be augmented," Huq said.

"It is not difficult to raise the yearly production of shrimp to one lakh tons from 30,000 tons produced on average per year now, he points out.

The average shrimp production per hectares of land recorded at 200 kg.

The average per hectare production might be raised between 3,000 kg to 5,000 kg by means of semi-intensive farming system. Even in a traditional farming system also the crop on average per hectare could be raised to 500 kg, in case of planned and organised farming, he said adding that due to disintegrated form of farming the prospects of shrimp culture remained unutilized.

Presently, shrimp culture is done in 1,30,000 hectares of coastal lands, reports said. (The second instalment will appear tomorrow)

Russia's oil production goes down

MOSCOW, Oct 24: Russia's oil production, its main power of hard currency, fell in the first nine months of this year, or almost 23 million tonnes less as against the same period of 1994, a statistics official here said, reports Xinhua.

The official of the Russian State Committee for Statistics told reporters, over the first nine months of 1995, Russia produced 230,065,000 tonnes of oil, or almost 23 million tonnes less as compared with the correspondent period of last year.

During the January-September period, Russia exported 91,171,000 tonnes of oil, or 50,000 tonnes more than in the same period of last year. In the nine months, its oil export revenue amounted to 9,199 million US dollars as against 8,020 million dollars in 1994, the official added.



M Asafuddinlah (3rd L), Secretary, Ministry of Commerce, seen speaking at the monthly meeting of the American Bangladesh Economic Forum (ABEF) at the Dhaka Sheraton Hotel yesterday. Sitting from left are: A Gafur, Executive Secretary-ABEF, Forrest Cookson, President-ABEF and M Nurul Islam, Vice President-ABEF.

World Bank report estimates

Asia needs \$ 1.5t in coming decade for general infrastructure financing needs

MANILA, Oct 24: Hundreds of millions of people in Asia's booming cities lack basic services and huge investments will have to be made over the next decade to stop the urban nightmare worsening, experts said today, reports Reuter.

The experts, attending a seminar on "mega-cities management in Asia and the Pacific," said that Asia will have 13 of the world's 21 "mega-cities" identified as those with more than 10 million people — by the turn of the century.

They said the challenges thrown up by the burgeoning cities will call for specialised "mega-city managers" and large investments.

A World Bank report issued in Bangkok last month estimated Asia's general infrastructure financing needs, including those for urban planning, at 1.5 trillion dollar in the coming decade.

A background paper prepared by conference host the Asian Development Bank said forecasts for the year 2020

show Asia will become predominantly urban, its cities sheltering up to 2.4 billion people or 55 per cent of the continent's population.

A 1990 study showed Asia's urban population at 991 million, about one-third of the continent's total population.

"Not long after the dawn of the new century, the overwhelming majority of the world's population will be living in cities," said Dia Weerapana, and advisor to the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements.

The growth of cities in Asia has a dark side to it because many were growing in the world's poorest regions, he said.

Present estimates show at least 250 million urban residents in Asia lacked safe piped water and about 400 million lacked sanitation, Weerapana said.

ADB President Mitsuo Sato said the region's new cities faced shortages of land and water, inadequate environmental sanitation, air pollu-

tion, traffic congestion and in some cases, civil unrest.

Participants at the seminar said financing improvements in urban infrastructure in the region would be difficult.

"In spite of the changes in

Workshop on Grameen Bank concludes

A three-day workshop on "Grameen Bank — A Basic Principle," concluded here at the German Cultural Centre on Monday, says UNB.

Alumni Association of German Universities in Bangladesh, Carl Duisberg Samity and Humboldt Club Bangladesh organised the workshop in cooperation with Grameen Bank and Goethe Institut.

Founder and Managing Director of Grameen Bank Prof Muhammad Yunus addressed the informal opening session on "future prospect of Grameen Bank."

capital markets that have occurred in recent years, financing for urban infrastructure remains in short supply," an ADB paper said.

Sato said the ADB was increasingly seeking the support of the private sector for urban growth.

"The emerging experience of countries around the world is that (the) private sector can contribute to the efficiency of delivery of public services," Sato said.

But he warned that private sector involvement needed to be carefully monitored "to ensure public purposes continue to be served."

"Our region is rapidly changing from a region of villages to a region of mega-cities," said Rafael Alunan, the Philippine Secretary for Interior and Local Government.

He said urban authorities thinking in the conventional development planning style often overlooked the fact that they were not equipped to handle these big cities.

EU won't allow China's entry into WTO to be stalled

STOCKHOLM, Oct 24: European Trade Commission Leon Brittan said yesterday the process of bringing China into the World Trade Organisation must not be allowed to stall, despite resistance from Washington over terms of accession, reports Reuter.

"China cannot come in at any price. But we must take a fresh look at our priorities, and ensure that we do not ask for more than is reasonable," Brittan said in remarks at the Stockholm trade policy seminar.

"We are genuine in wanting them in," he added.

Brittan said it was everybody's interest to expand the newly-created WTO as quickly as possible and economic powers such as Russia and China were already negotiating membership.

"In the case of China, the momentum of the negotiations has largely been lost, but we cannot allow the process to break down," he said.

Brittan came to the seminar direct from chairing a meeting in northern England,

'China's economy can maintain steady growth for next 15 yrs'

BEIJING, Sept 24: China's economy can maintain steady growth for the next 15 years and the government will focus on a healthy rather than a high growth rate, Premier Li Peng said, reports Reuter.

In a meeting with visiting World Bank President James Wolfensohn, Li identified several problems facing China's economy, including a large population and weak efficiency in some state-owned enterprises, imbalances in the economy and pockets of poverty.

However, China can maintain its sound economic development over the next 15 years, Xinhua news agency quoted Li as saying.

In terms of future growth, China will pay more attention to maintaining a healthy rate instead of merely seeking a high growth rate, he said.

To achieve this, the government will place more stress on establishing a more rational industrial structure

and economic efficiency.

A meeting of the central committee of China's ruling Communist party is expected to approve a five-year national plan next week that contains few policy changes but will call for nine per cent annual growth and a better deal for the backward interior.

Li's remarks echoed China's cautious approach to the crucial reform of state enterprises, with a third recording chronic loss, problem that has vexed economic planners, and defied solutions, for years.

Beijing has moved cautiously with bankruptcy and other bitter medicine for fear of throwing too many people out of their cradle-to-grave state jobs, a potential recipe for social chaos.

Li reiterated China's three-step economic strategy.

This plan is to double per capita GNP to solve the problem of inadequate food and clothing in the 1980s, to

redouble per capital GNP to achieve a comfortable level of living in the 1990s and on this basis, to quadruple per capita GNP to reach the level of middle-income developed countries by the middle of the next century.

Li told the World Bank President that China with its 1.2 billion people constituted a huge potential market.

"Increased consumer and investment demands mean huge potential for the market, which is open both to Chinese companies and to foreign ones," Xinhua quoted Li as saying.

Li told Wolfensohn that China's economic development prospects and its respectable repayment record had laid a good base for further cooperation with the World Bank.

He urged greater cooperation in basic industries, farming, aid to poverty-stricken areas, science, and education.

Notice of RHD Inviting Tenders

- Tender Notice No : 16 of 1995-96, Road Division, Magura.
- Name of work : Carriage of bitumen all around the year from Chittagong (RHD) stackyard (Sagorica) to Magura (RHD) stackyard under Road Division, Magura during the year 1995-96.
- Estimated cost : Tk 7,50,080/-
- Earnest money : Tk 15,002/-
- Time allowed for completion of work : Up to 30th June, 1996.
- Eligibility of contractor : "A" to "E" general category of RHD.
- Name of offices : Office of the Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Jessore/Magura/Jhenidah/Kushtia/Planning Division, (Road & Bridges), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Planning & Design Division, Boyra, Khulna and Sub-Divisional Engineer (RHD), Road Sub-Division, Magura.
- Name of officers : Additional Chief Engineer (RHD), Khulna Zone, Boyra, Khulna/Superintending Engineer (RHD), Road Circle, Jessore/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Magura/Jhenidah/Kushtia. (The sealed tender envelopes shall not be opened by the respective receiving officer. Those shall be opened in this office in due time after collecting all the tender papers from all the receiving offices).
- Last date & time for receiving tender : Up to 12.30 PM on 5-11-95 Eng/21-7-1402 Beng.
- Date & time for opening of sealed tender received by the undersigned & other officers :
 - Name of officer : Executive Engineer (RHD), Road Division, Magura.
 - Date & time : At 11.00 AM on 11-11-95 Eng/27-7-1402 Beng. (In presence of the contractor who may remain present).

Md Mostafa Kamal
Executive Engineer (RHD)
(Current Charge)
Road Division, Magura

Local scientist develops new poultry vaccine

Bangladeshi livestock scientist Dr Mahfuzul Hoque has developed a new poultry vaccine called salmonella to combat pullorum disease and fowl typhoid, reports BSS.

The technique and the seed bacteria for production of the vaccine has been handed over to the Mahakhalai vaccine production laboratory recently for commercial production.

Dr Hoque, a senior scientific officer of the Bangladesh Livestock Research Institute (BLRI), Savar, developed the vaccine from two bacteria, salmonella pullorum and salmonella gallinarum, isolated from infected poultry.

The bacteria salmonella pullorum is responsible for pullorum disease which causes frequent white diarrhoea, depression, dullness, shrunken eye, stunted growth and ruffled feather. The chicks are more susceptible to the disease leading to 80 per cent deaths in severe cases.

The bacteria salmonella gallinarum produces fowl typhoid which has the same symptoms as the pullorum disease.

The vaccine developed was of two types, the inactivated and the live attenuated.

Dr Hoque also developed a pullorum antigen used for routine monitoring of the birds against the two diseases. The antigen has been prepared from salmonella pullorum bacteria isolated from poultry birds.

Dr Hoque worked for over two years under the "Avian salmonellosis project" funded by the IFAD and Danida to develop the vaccine and the antigen.

He said at present only the government farms use the vaccine imported from abroad which costs Taka 1800 each vial, while the antigen is being used by the government farms and major private farms and the imported cost of per 10 ml vial is Taka 1400.

BIBM course ends

An 18-day training course on "Industrial Project Financing" was concluded yesterday says a press release.

The Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management (BIBM) conducted this course. It provide analytical techniques, in-depth knowledge of industrial development and the role of industrial credit in overall economic development of the country.

The course highlighted the role of banks and financial institutions in industrial development, capital market operations, appraisal of projects, sanctioning of loan, disbursement of loan, recovery of credit, identification of sick projects, nursing and rehabilitation measures.

A total of 21 officers from different bank and financial institutions participated in the course.

A H M Nurul Islam Choudhuri, Director General of BIBM, presided over the concluding session.

ROK business team to survey planned EPZ

A group of top South Korean industrialists is coming to Bangladesh on Friday to explore investment potentials as well as to have a spot survey of the planned Export Processing Zone (EPZ) offered exclusively for them in Chittagong, reports UNB.

Bangladesh offered some 180 acres of land at Fauzdarhat in Chittagong to build the exclusive EPZ for entrepreneurs from Korea — one of Asia's fastest growing economies. An accord to this effect was reached last May during Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia's visit to Seoul.

Planners reckon that some US dollar 100 million will be initially required to develop the proposed EPZ, the first of its kind for any particular foreign nation. Bangladesh already has two EPZs — one at Savar in the outskirts of capital Dhaka and other at the port city of Chittagong.

The 29-member Korean team, headed by Kiack Sung, chairman of Youngone Corporation — one of Korea's industrial giants — will be on a week-long tour here that will also take them to Chittagong.

Youngone has been a pioneering Korean industrial group that has already invested about US dollar 30 million in seven readymade garment and sports wear units in Bangladesh employing more than 10,000 people.

It owns The Sports Apparels and Key Garments, The Padding Industries, The Sports Wear and Garments and The Garments Accessories in Chittagong EPZ.

Besides, it has been running three factories at Savar EPZ: The Hi-tech Sports-wear, The Synthetic Fibre and The Dyeing and Finishing Co.

Youngone is also constructing a US dollar 20 million factory at the Chittagong EPZ to produce sports shoes, representative of the Korean group here said.

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

বিদ্যুৎ বিল নিয়মিত পরিশোধ করুন

সরবরাহ/কাজের নামঃ
পাথরকুচি সরবরাহ ১২০০ ঘন মিটার। টিকাদারের যোগাযোগঃ বিদ্যুৎ উন্নয়ন বোর্ডের তালিকাভুক্ত 'ক' শ্রেণীর টিকাদার এবং প্রকৃত ও অনুমোদিত সরবরাহকারী প্রতিষ্ঠান। প্রকৃত সরবরাহকারীগণ দরপত্র জয়ের সময় জাতীয় অভিজ্ঞতার প্রমাণস্বরূপ কমপক্ষে ১৫ (পনের) লক্ষ টাকার পাথর কোন সরকারী, আধাসরকারী, স্বায়ত্বশাসিত, রাষ্ট্রায়ত্ত্ব সংস্থা বা সুনামধন্য বেসরকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানে সরবরাহ করিয়াছেন এমন সনদপত্র ও কার্যদেশের মুদ্রা কপি প্রদর্শন করিতে হইবে। দরপত্রের মূল্যঃ ১০০০/- (একহাজার) টাকা (অফেরকযোগ্য)।

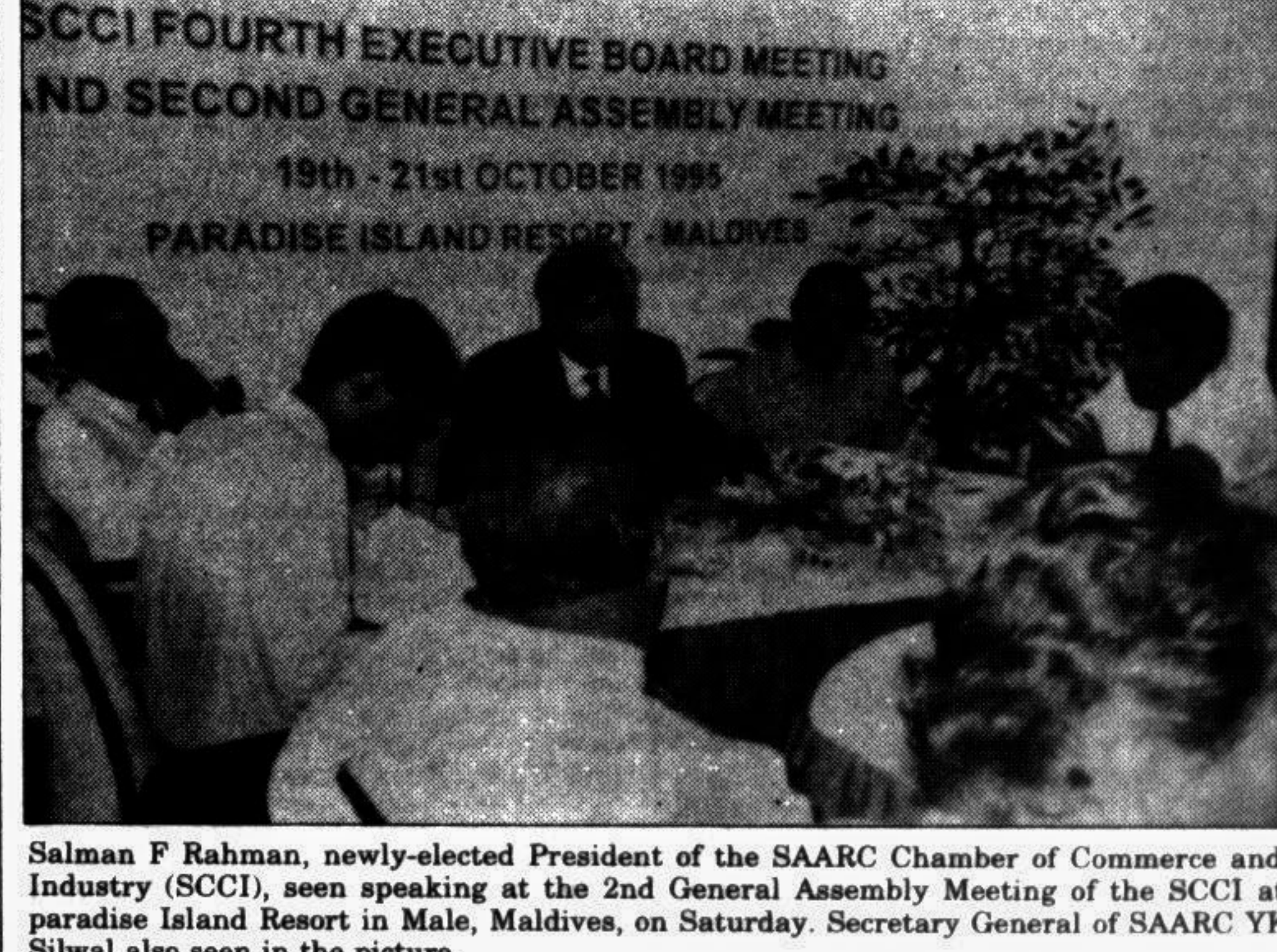
ডাকট/পে-অর্ডারের মাধ্যমে উপ-পরিচালক (হিসাব), যোগাহিদ, বিটবো, পলাশ, নরসিংদীর অনুকূলে। দরপত্র প্রতিস্থান ও তারিখঃ প্রধান প্রকৌশলী, পূর্তকর্ম, বিটবো, বিদ্যুৎ ভবন, ঢাকা/পরিচালক, পূর্তকাজ, বিটবো, ৮০, মহাখালী বা/এ, ঢাকা এবং পূর্ববালী ব্যাংক লিমিটেড, পলাশ, নরসিংদী হইতে আগামী ১৫ই নভেম্বর/৯৫ইং (বালা) ১লা অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪০২ সাল) পর্যন্ত গ্রহণ ও খোলার তারিখঃ ১৬ই নভেম্বর/৯৫ইং (বালা) ২রা অগ্রহায়ণ ১৪০২ সাল) বেলা ১২-০০ ঘটিকা এবং ঐদিনই বেলা ১২-০০ মিনিট। দরপত্রের অন্যান্য সকল যাবতীয় নিয়মাবলী অবশ্যই পালন করিতে হইবে।

নির্বাচী প্রকৌশলী
পি. সি. পোল নির্মাণ প্রকল্প
বিভাগ-১
বিটবো, পলাশ, নরসিংদী।

বিদ্যুৎ/জন-৫১৮(৬)/৯৫-৯৬
ডিএফপি-২৫৭৪১-২১/১০
জি-১৫৬৬

SCCI FOURTH EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING AND SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY MEETING

19th - 21st OCTOBER 1995
PARADISE ISLAND RESORT - MALDIVES



Salman F Rahman, newly-elected President of the SAARC Chamber of Commerce and Industry (SCCI), seen speaking at the 2nd General Assembly Meeting of the SCCI at Paradise Island Resort in Male, Maldives, on Saturday. Secretary General of SAARC YK Silwal also seen in the picture.

OPEC's estimated demand decreases for '95-'96

NICOSIA, Oct 24: OPEC has revised downwards estimated demand on its crude oil and stocks for 1995 and 1996, the Middle East Economic Survey (MEES) reported Monday, says AFP.

Quoting the monthly report from the secretariat of the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), the specialist weekly said demand would reach an average of 24.6 million barrels per day (BPD) this year, 300,000 BPD lower than previous estimates.

Call for crude in 1996 would be around 24.8 million BPD, a decrease of 200,000 BPD.

OPEC cut its estimates for demand in the third and fourth quarters of 1995 to 23.5 million BPD and 25.1 million BPD, down 300,000 BPD and 500,000 BPD on previous calculations.

It said the reason for the move was an increase of 390,000 BPD in production by non-OPEC countries which would reach 42.6 million in 1995 and 43.75 million in 1996 signalling a rise of 280,000 BPD, the Cyprus-based MEES reported.

World demand will go up 40,000 BPD in 1995 to reach 67.17 million BPD, an increase of 1.04 million BPD compared with last year, and 68.54 million BPD in 1996, a rise of 60,000 BPD.

Meanwhile, Brent crude oil prices fell on Monday on the London market to their lowest level since the start of the month on rumours of possible oil sales by Iraq, hit by a five years UN oil embargo after its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait.