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The Daily Star BUSINESS



HYUNDAI
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

DHAKA THURSDAY, DECEMBER 28, 1995

Chinese currency to remain stable next year

BEIJING, Dec 27. The Chinese currency will remain largely stable next year despite major changes in the country's foreign trade policies, a report said yesterday, according to AFP.

A signed article in the overseas edition of the People's Daily dismissed concern that a significant cut in import tariffs and the cancellation of some import licenses would have an adverse effect on the Chinese yuan.

"The most important factor determining the exchange rate is the relation between hard currency supply and demand," the article said, adding that "no big changes will take place in this connection in the near future."

The yuan is currently valued at 8.31 to the dollar, up 1.7 per cent from the end of 1994.

The article said China would continue to pursue a relatively tight financial and monetary policy in 1996, so as to prevent excessive growth in domestic demand and the overall economy.

That policy will lay the foundation for a balance in hard currency supply and demand, it said.

At the same time, the article said China's growing hard currency reserves put the government in a strong position to regulate the supply and demand of foreign exchange and stabilise the domestic currency.

Integrated research on science, tech stressed

BUET Vice Chancellor Prof M Shahjahan emphasized on integrated research in the field of science and technology, reports UNB.

He was addressing yesterday the inaugural ceremony of a two-day international seminar on "Fluid Mechanics Research," organized by Mechanical Engineering Department of BUET (Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology).

Research works in the field of Fluid Mechanics would help BUET in achieving its dual responsibility — developing capable manpower and providing necessary support to both public and private sectors, the BUET VC said.

The subject has got wide applications in forecasting weather, development of technologies, and designing process equipments and plants, Prof Shahjahan added.

Presided by Prof MA Taha Ali, the inaugural session was also addressed by Prof F Hussain of Houston University, Prof AC Mandal and AKM Sadul Islam.

Ten foreign delegates from USA, Australia, India, Japan, and Iran attended the seminar where 40 research papers were placed by the experts.

Speakers at a seminar opine Fall in food output prime cause of rice price-hike

Speakers at a seminar here yesterday attributed the sharp rise in rice price mainly to the fall in food production in recent years, reports UNB.

The actual production fell so much below the trend value in 1993-94 that it brought about a sharp rise in rice price in recent years, they said.

"As the output further fell in 1994-95 there was further rise in prices," Dr AH Shahadat Ullah, a former member of the Planning Commission, told the seminar at Bangladesh Agricultural Research Council (BARC) auditorium.

The Agriculture Ministry and the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) jointly organised the seminar in connection with the World Food Day.

Food and Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan, Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah-Al Noman, FAO representative Dr SS Rekhi, Food Secretary Abdul Moyeen Chowdhury, Dr SK Roy, Dr Atiq Rahman and Ahsan Ali Sarkar also addressed the seminar chaired by Agriculture Secretary Akhtar Ali.

The per capita availability of food has been declining steadily since 1990-91, raising question about the policy environment from the point of food security in Bangladesh.

Dr Shahadat observed that "appropriate policy environment," the sustainability question, was rudely brought

to realisation in 1994-95 when a very poor Aman harvest was followed by a fertilizer crisis and the food output declined by over 1.2 million tons.

The rice production has in fact been falling after reaching its peak in 1992-93, he said in a paper on "Prospects and Problems of Food Security in Bangladesh."

Dr Shahadat said food aid in per capita terms is at much lower level now than in 1980s, total food availability per capita has declined since 1990-91, public food stock has reached such low in recent years that it will be hard to call it a food security reserved to meet any emergency.

"Food security is at its lowest level now which cannot but adversely affect the state of poverty," he added.

In a poverty ridden country, he said, food security has the first and foremost meaning of ensuring for every person so much of food as he requires to lead an active life.

The central problem of food security is the distribution of food among the various socio-economic groups, that is, in the realisation of the normative standard, he said.

Food security depends on both supply and demand management, but it is first considered from the point of supply management, he added.

Agriculture Minister Abdul Mannan Bhuiyan stressed the need for increasing food

production and developing the supply system to ensure food for all.

Still 85 per cent of the population of the country are directly or indirectly dependent on agriculture, 38 per cent of the GDP comes from this sector and 31 per cent of the export earning comes from agriculture, he said.

This is why, he said, the government has attached highest importance to the agricultural development and taken various measures for the development of the sector.

Fisheries and Livestock Minister Abdullah-Al Noman said instead of depending on foreign assistance the country needs a system developed by itself to solve the food problem.

"An integrated plan by using natural resources will help solve the food problem," he said adding food storage was necessary for a disaster-prone country like Bangladesh.

FAO representative Dr SS Rekhi said FAO places high priority on food security as it is a fundamental human right.

The activities which FAO is carrying out in association with the national efforts, will no doubt foster new partnership and bring fresh inspiration to the struggle for achieving food security, he said.

Later, the food minister inaugurated a two-day food exhibition at the BARC premises.

3-day computer exhibition begins today

By Staff Correspondent

The Conference and Exhibition Management Services (CEMS) will hold a three-day computer exhibition at a local hotel beginning today (Thursday).

Twenty-eight private computer firms will participate in the exhibition titled Comteg 95, says a press release.

Participating computer firms are: Ace Computer Industries Ltd, Communication Systems Ltd, Computer and Office Automation System Ltd, Computer Vally, Computer Network System (CNS) Ltd, Daffodil Computer, Dhaka Soft, Electronics and Computers, Great Oriental Trading Company, Impulse Technology Int. Ltd, International Office Machines Ltd, Limo Electronics Ind, Massive Computers, New Star Electronics, Nexas Computer, Pacific Associates Ltd, Pacific Bangladesh Telecom Ltd, Patriot Electronics Ltd, PC Bazar, Prokult International Ltd, Siemens Super Nova, Technics, Tel Asia Ltd, Tetteroid (Bangladesh) Ltd, The Superior Electronics and Urmi Trading Corporation (Rvt) Ltd.



Nurul Husain Khan, Chairman, Board of Directors of Eastern Bank Limited, seen inaugurating the bank's 12th branch at Chawk Mughultuly in the city on Tuesday. AIM Ifrikar Rahman, Managing Director and M Hedayetul Islam, Executive Vice President, are also seen.

Low flow of Ganges water affects G-K Project

KUSHTIA, Dec 27: The Ganges-Kobadak project, the biggest irrigation project of the country, is going to meet the same fate this year, as in the past several years, due to the unprecedented low flow of Ganges water from upper riparian, reports UNB.

The project was established aiming at increasing agriculture production but is facing water crisis again much ahead of the dry season this year.

The mouth of intake channel which feed three main pumps and 12 subsidiary pumps for the irrigation of 3.50 lakh acres of land in Kushtia, Chuadanga, Jhenidah, Magura and Jessore districts has been silted up.

As a result, the project authority has been forced to undertake dredging work much ahead of the time at an expenditure of Tk one lakh per day for maintaining the water flow in the main pump house. The pump house is situated at Harding Bridge point, only 3000 feet away from the main river Ganges.

Lowest flow of the Ganges water was recorded 15,000 cusecs in February, this year.

Water and soil experts said that low flow of water, owing to unilateral withdrawal of waters at Farakka Barrage, has increased soil salinity by 40 per cent in 21 districts of the country.

They also apprehended more than 1.20 crore acres of cultivable land in the affected districts may turn into an arid land. This phenomenon has been increasingly lowering the moisture content of soil. Experts termed it a sure sign of desertification which has already been started in the said 21 districts.

The reduction of moisture in the soil is hampering the rabi crops production in greater Rajshahi, Pabna, Kushtia, Faridpur and Jessore districts, they said.

"Hence the rise of surface water salinity and soil intrusion salinity owing to unilateral withdrawal of water of the river Ganges by India will force us to change the usual cropping pattern in those affected districts for our survival," they added.

With the rapid reduction of water level, innumerable shoals have emerged in the mid river Ganges, causing hindrance to the ferry services at Bheramara-Paksey route.

Emergence of innumerable chars in the mid-river indicates that huge quantity of water has been diverted in the upper reaches, much ahead of dry season by India, causing dislocation of ferry services on various other routes.

Bheramara-Paksey ferry ghat is being shifted frequently to keep the service smooth and dredging work requires every year involving additional expenditures.

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Wages of comrades below Rs 2000

CALCUTTA, Dec 27: The wages of whole-time comrades in the CPI-M including Jyoti Basu, were below Rs 2000 and there was no provision of pocket allowance in the party, the CPI-M state committee secretary, Sailen Dasgupta said yesterday, reports PTI.

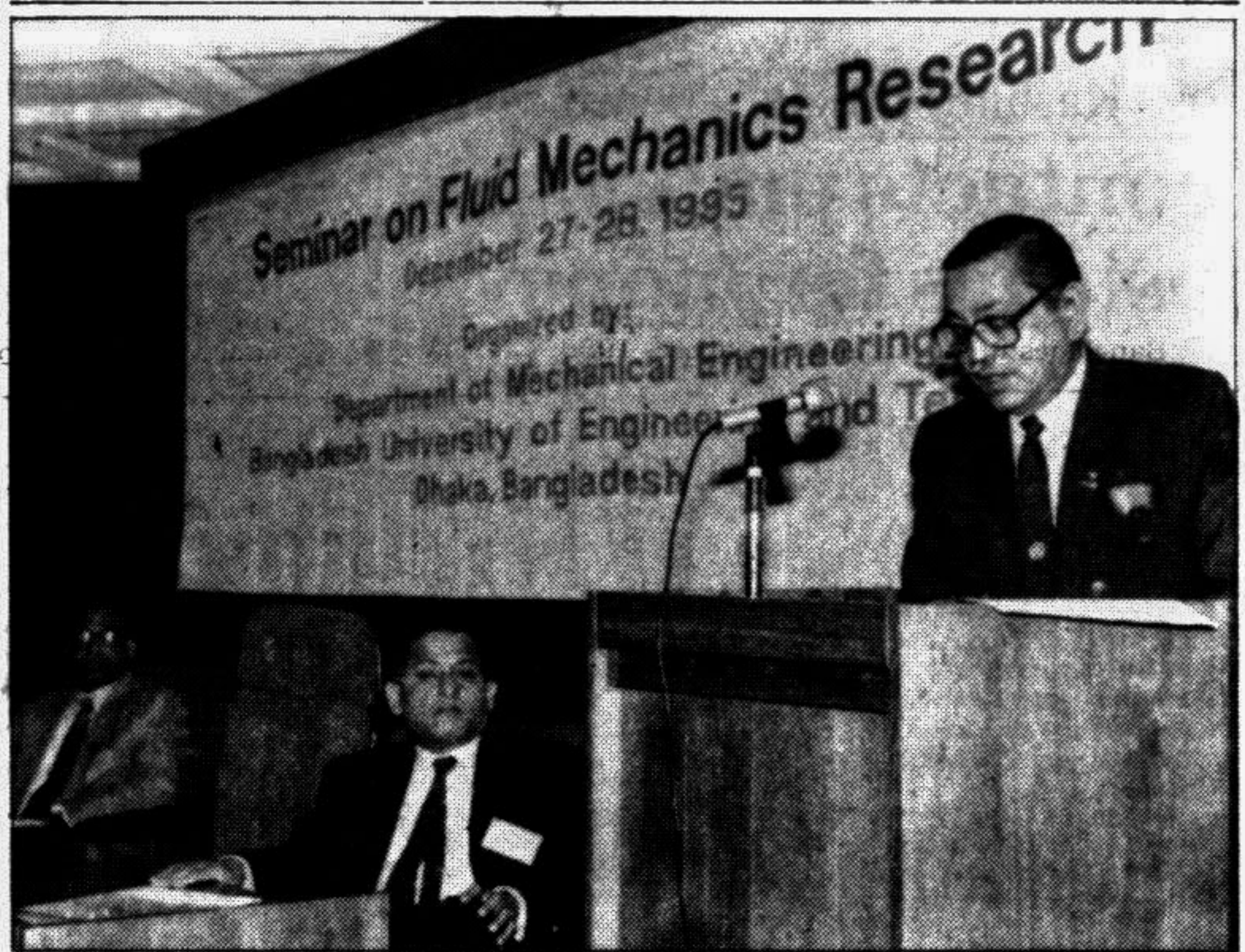
Contesting a report published in a leading English daily entitled 'monthly allowance of full-timers raised,' Dasgupta said, the item was "motivated and part of a deliberate vilification and disinformation campaign to denigrate our party."

"Issues of whole-timers' wages were not discussed in the state CPI-M. He said, the question of raising it did not arise. We have not issued any instruction to raise wages for the party district level whole-timers from Rs 1,500 to Rs 3000.

New chief of BCIC

In accordance with notification of the Ministry of Industries, Dr. Azizur Rahman, Director (Production & Research) of Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation (BCIC), has, in addition to his own responsibilities, taken over as Chairman (current charge) of BCIC with effect from December 26, says a press release.

He has succeeded AIM Nazmul Alam who went on LPR (leave preparatory to retirement) from Tuesday.



Prof M Shahjahan, Vice-Chancellor of BUET, delivering his inaugural speech as chief guest at a two-day international seminar on "Fluid Mechanics Research" organized by the Department of Mechanical Engineering, BUET at the Council Bhaban of the university yesterday.

Jalalabad Gas Transmission & Distribution System Limited
(A Company of Petrobangla)
Pathantuly, Sylhet

Ref. No. JG/13692901 Dt. 29-08-1402 BS/13-12-95 Eng

"গাছ লাগানো, গাছের পরিচর্যা করুন এবং পরিবেশ বীচান" - প্রধানমন্ত্রী

Corrigendum Notice

In the Tender Notice for officers' quarters construction, Shahji Bazar, Habiganj (double storey building containing four units of 1000 sq ft) vide this company Ref No. JG/13692901, dated 28-11-95, the amended time limit for purchasing tender schedule will be 8th January, 1996 instead of 2nd January, 1995.

Other terms & conditions will remain unchanged.

DFP-32102-23/12 G-1971

Managing Director

Production process of new Mishuk inaugurated

Atlas Bangladesh Ltd (ABL), an enterprise of Bangladesh Steel and Engineering Corporation (BSEC) has designed more powerful 125cc four stroke engine of assembled 'Mishuk'. State Minister for Industries Lutfor Rahman Khan Tuesday formally inaugurated production process of new Mishuk at ABL premises, says a press release.

ABL authority informed the State Minister that the newly designed Mishuk is more speedy and production cost is comparatively lower. The new Mishuk consumes fuel comparatively low and as a result owner, driver and passenger would be benefited.

It was also informed the State Minister that outflow of smoke by new Mishuk is negligible, and it can play a vital role in protecting environment of the country.

The press release said, 65 per cent local spare-parts were used in designing engine of the Mishuk.

The minister directed the ABL authority to take necessary steps so that newly designed Mishuk can be produced at large scale aiming at protecting environment.

In the light of free market economy, we have to produce qualitative product at a low cost for our successful existence, the minister said.

BSEC Chairman AFMS Zaman and Managing Director of ABL Ashrafu Haque were present on the occasion.

Tk 126.8m AKF grant for BRAC

The Aga Khan Foundation, disbursed Tk. 2,95,70,000 to BRAC, in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), bringing its contribution in 1995 to Tk 12,68,08,000, says a press release.

AKF, with a group of donors, supports BRAC's rural development activity, under which it provides functional education, leadership training, training for income generation activities and credit to the poorest in rural areas of Bangladesh. BRAC also provides non-formal primary education to more than 1 million children in about 35,000 one-roomed schools.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Superintending Engineer (R&H)
Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka

Tender Corrigendum Notice

It is hereby notified for information of all concerned that the undermentioned corrigenda have been inserted in the Tender Notice for construction of pre-stressed concrete girder bridge (2nd Dhaleswari Bridge) on bored pile foundation at 18th KM of Dhaka-Khulna Road under Munshiganj Road Division invited through Tender Notice No-2/DRC yr 1995-96 earlier vide Dhaka Road Circle Memo No 6459/1(40) dated 4/12/1995.

- Last date of selling tender: 15.1.1996 up to office hours instead of 30.12.1995.
- Last date of receiving tender: Up to 12.30 PM of 16.1.1996 instead of 31.12.1995.
- Date of opening tender: 22.1.1996 at 1.00 PM instead of 7.1.1996.

Besides these, other terms & conditions of the aforesaid invited tender will remain valid as usual. This corrigendum notice shall be treated as integral part of the above tender and should be attached with the tender. Otherwise tender will be treated as cancelled.

DFP-32375-26/12 G-1970

Superintending Engineer (R&H)
Dhaka Road Circle, Dhaka.

F H Abed, Executive Director of BRAC, receiving a cheque for Tk 29,570,000 from RMH Hirji, Chairman, Aga Khan Foundation (Bangladesh). Also seen in the picture are Mutarak Ali, Member, National Committee and Dr Amir Ali, CEO of AKF (B). The grant has been made in collaboration with the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA).

Military Engineer Services Bangladesh Navy

Notice of Tender

Annex-'A' to DW & CE (Navy) Lalasharai Nabik Colony, Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206 Letter No 605/BN/2/135/E-6 Dated: 19 Dec 1995

1. Applications are hereby invited by DW & CE (Navy) Lalasharai Nabik Colony, Mirpur-14, Dhaka-1206 for issue of Tender documents up to 07 Jan '96 for the following works:

Sl No	Description of works	Approximate cost (In Lakh)
1.	Construction of three storied SM BK for 16 Sailors & 2 NCO's with CH/DH, ground floor open with Guard room at Chanua, Chittagong.	32.00
2.	Construction of Office room over existing 15 Bay Utility Vehicle Garage at BNS Issa Khan, Chittagong.	33.50
3.	Construction of 2 x 10 Married MCP/O's/CP/O's Qtr (5 storied) at Nabik Colony No 2, Chittagong.	140.00
4.	Construction of boundary wall on the western side of TS Tigerpass, Chittagong.	4.17
5.	Construction of Dyke in order to fill earth to 100 acres of Naval land at Dangercher Mouza through dredging from Kornafuli river, Chittagong.	7.44
6.	Supply of 36 Nos Steel rack (Pigeon hole) and 87 Nos steel rack (Open) for Chanies store No 3, Chittagong.	20.25
7.	Installation of 18 Nos Halogen Lamp to existing 9 Nos Security light post adjacent to South side boundary wall at BNS Ulka, Chittagong.	4.00
8.	Construction of PCC road in front of Gun room admin block, SM BK, 'C' type Qtr, MES Sub-Station & from academy bldg to Mosque and North side of Sentry post to back side of ward room and widening of road by 3 metre & casting of PCC on the road from hardstanding of 'E' type Qtr to Gymnasium at BNA, Chittagong.	41.56
9.	Construction of 2nd & 3rd floor over existing newly constructed 1st floor bldg. No 200 at BNS Patenga Hospital.	131.45
10.	Construction of Security wall 8'-0" high with 4'-0" barbed wire fence on top (300 M long) along the boundary towards North at BNS Bhatiary.	10.00
11.	Provision of 44 Nos light post, 88 Nos 1000 watt Halogen Lamp incl installation of 1x250 KVA Transformer at BNS Bhatiary boundary area.	27.86

Md Mahbubur Rahman
JEN
SO-II(Works)
For DW & CE (Navy) Dhaka

ISPR/Navy/95/2283
DFP-3223028/12
G-1967