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Ghorasal Fertiliser Factory resumes production

By Staff Correspondent

The Ghorasal Urea fertiliser factory, under Bangladesh Chemical Industries Corporation, has resumed production on Friday, says a press release of BCIC yesterday.

The production in the factory was temporarily suspended on March 6 due to break down in one of the gas turbines. All-out efforts have been made for resumption of production, making special arrangement with Power Development Board and adjoining Polash Urea Fertiliser Factory for required power, the press release said.

According to the BCIC all six urea fertiliser units are continuing operation in full swing. Ministry of Agriculture has projected urea demand during March '96 at 2,70,000 metric tons.

To meet this demand the urea fertiliser factories have combined stock of 1,92,500 MT on first March and have scheduled production target of 1,92,500 MT for the month of March '96.

The press release further mentioned that about 1,13,040 MT of urea have been supplied from six urea fertiliser factories during the last eight days as against proportionate production of 69,677 MT, which exceeded the target by 62 per cent.

There would not be any difficulty in meeting the agricultural demand of 2,70,000 MT, set for this month, it added.



Shops in front of GPO in the city closed on the first day yesterday of the indefinite non-cooperation programme called by the major opposition political parties. — Star photo

UN decides to continue economic ban on Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 9: The UN Security Council decided Thursday to continue economic sanctions against Iraq, and members said the reported seizure of Iraq-bound contraband and the killings of two returning defectors showed Iraq's government cannot be trusted, reports AP.

British Deputy Ambassador Stephen Gomersall told the council that the UN mission in Iraq had uncovered evidence that the Iraqis continue "to try to procure the means to develop new weapons of mass destruction."

French Ambassador Alain Dejeantet cited Iraq's failure to return Kuwaiti property and provide information on the whereabouts of missing Kuwaiti soldiers as reasons the sanctions must remain in place.

Both Albright and Gomersall also mentioned that the murders of Iraqi defectors Lt Gen Hussein Kamel al-Majid and his brother Saddam Kamel as an example of Iraq's failure to respect human rights.

They defected to Jordan last August but returned to Iraq on Feb 20. They were killed days later despite assurances they would be safe.

The Security Council has offered to allow Iraq to sell 1 billion dollars worth of oil for three months to buy food and medicine. Talks between the UN and Iraq resumed Monday.

Although the offer does not require full Iraqi compliance with the weapons ban, council members are unlikely to approve even limited concessions to the Iraqis as long as they believe Baghdad is violating the sanctions.

A US official said he was not optimistic that the talks would make significant breakthroughs because no politically influential Iraqis were expected to join the negotiations. Members of the Iraqi delegation must apply for US visas.

The Security Council must continue to hold Saddam Hussein to a rigorous standard, US Ambassador Madeleine Albright told the council. "We have ample and incontrovertible evidence that Saddam and his regime will break promises, disavow signatures, lie, cheat, bully (and) murder."

Earlier Thursday, Jordan announced it had seized combat aircraft spare parts and other supplies headed for Iraq in violation of the sanctions. The Iraqi Embassy in the Jordanian capital Amman refused comment.

It was the third time in three months that Jordan has reported seizing contraband destined for Iraq despite Iraq's claim it is complying with UN resolutions.

Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited

(A Subsidiary Company of Petrobangla)
P. O. Box No. 8, Court Road, Brahmanbaria
Dated: 28-02-96

Re-Tender Notice for Appointment of C&F Agent

- Bangladesh Gas Fields Company Limited (BGFCL) invites sealed tenders from bonafide C&F agents in Bangladesh to appoint C&F agent for clearing its importable commodities at Dhaka Airport.
- The undermentioned tender schedule containing detailed description and terms & conditions can be collected from BGFCL offices — (1) Head office, Court Road, Brahmanbaria, (2) Liaison office, BAPEX Complex, Port Connecting Road, Chittagong, (3) Liaison office, 97, Purana Paltan, Bijoynagar, Dhaka on all working days (Sunday to Thursday) from 9-00 AM to 3-00 PM between 10-3-96 & 27-03-96.

Tender No.	Description	Price (Non-refundable)
FP/C&F/003 (Re)	Appointment of C&F Agent for Dhaka Airport	Tk. 500.00

3. Tenders should be deposited in the tender box kept at the above offices latest by 28-03-96 within 11-00 AM. Tenders will be opened on the same day at 11-30 hours in presence (if any) of the tenderers or their representatives. No schedule will be sold on the date of opening tender.

4. BGFCL reserves the right to accept any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

Public Relations-9/006 (LP)/96
DPP-4921-4/3
Senior Manager (Implement Management)

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Divisional Forest Officer
Sylhet Forest Division

3rd Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are invited in the prescribed form from the bonafide suppliers/contractors for purchasing new Motor-Cycle & Bi-Cycle for the use of the Divisional Forest Officer, Sylhet Forest Division during 1995-96 under Forest Resources Management Project.

Tender will be received by the undersigned through the Tender Box kept in his office up to 12-00 Noon of 4-4-96 and will be opened on the same date at 1-00 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any).

Tender form (schedule) may be obtained from the office of the undersigned and in the office of the Assistant Chief Conservator of Forests (General), Banabhaban, Mohakhali, Dhaka at a cost of Tk. 400/- (four hundred) each group of any office working day up to 3-4-96. The terms & conditions and other information in detailed for submission of tender may be seen during office hours up to 3-4-96.

- Motor-Cycle & Bi-Cycle.**
- Group-1. Each Motor Cycle of following specification with 3 (three) Nos. two wheels, tyres, tubes, original horn, full set bulb (7 Nos.) & 4-spark plugs complete.
- Motor Cycle: 100/80 C.C.
 - Necessary connected fittings:
 - Nickel carrier (Properly fitted)
 - Original Battery 1 No. (Fitted with Motor Cycle)
 - Original rear-view Mirror-2 Nos. (Properly fitted)
 - Beaper for changing Right & Left (Properly fitted)
 - Original Horn (Properly fitted)
 - Accessories: Dal'wrench, Flyers etc. 1 set of at least 8 items.
 - Helmet 2 Nos. with heavy dutiful glass, may be Senakallayan.
 - Year of manufacture-1994-95
 - Latest Model.
- Group-2. Bi-cycle 5 (five) Nbs. (i) Lock & key (2) Carrier (Dynamo) (4) 2 (Two) tyres & 2 tubes each.

M. Atiqul Azam
Divisional Forest Officer
Sylhet Division
DPP-4964-5/3
G-349

Indonesia, Pakistan sign \$ 1.59 b MOUs

JAKARTA, Mar 9: Indonesian and Pakistan have signed trade and investment memoranda of understanding (MOUs) worth \$1.59 billion dollars, encompassing energy, palm oil and general trade, press reports said here today, according to AFP.

The signings Friday were witnessed by the Indonesian Chamber of Commerce (KADIN) and Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, who was on a three-day official visit here which officials said was to promote cooperation in the economy, trade, investment and agriculture.

Indonesian and Pakistan need to increase their business cooperation by setting up as many joint ventures as possible to spur the economy of both nations, Bhutto was quoted as saying by the Bisnis Indonesia daily.

Bhutto Friday also met with President Suharto, after which State Secretary Murtidiono said that the two heads of state agreed that bilateral trade needed to be increased from its current figure of about 200 million dollars a year.

The parties signing the MOUs Friday included Indonesia's Bukaka Group, PT Arhiza Utama Corporation, controlled by Suharto's grandson Ari Sigit, a subsidiary of the giant Salim Group, and a number of private and state banks.

Pakistani enterprises involved in the MOUs included the national Power Construction Corporation, Neutech Group and Snidh Coastal Development Authorities, the Trade Department, and the National Bank of Pakistan.

Meanwhile, Pakistan International Airlines (PIA) Friday here also signed an MOU to buy 15 N-250 aircraft, produced by Indonesia's Industri Pesawat Terbang Nusantara (IPTN).

In her visit, Bhutto was accompanied by her husband Asif Ali Zardari, five ministers including those for foreign affairs, trade, and defence, and 80 leading Pakistani businessmen.

Figures from the foreign ministry put bilateral trade at 174.7 million dollars in 1994, with Indonesia posting a surplus of 110.1 million dollars.

Indonesia's main exports to Pakistan include tea, processed fruits, spices and oil, while its imports are cotton, paper products and textiles.

Bhutto and Zardari flew off to the resort island of Bali Friday evening, and are scheduled to return to Pakistan today.

Review meet on shipping held

A review meeting on the activities of different organisations under the Ministry of Shipping was held at Bangladesh Secretariat yesterday, according to an official hand-out, reports BSS.

State Minister for Shipping, Shajahan Siraj presided over the meeting. The meeting expressed satisfaction over the attendance of officials and employees of Chittagong and Mongla ports, Bangladesh Shipping Corporation, BIWTA, BIWTC and the ministry.

Meanwhile, eight ship left the Chittagong port while six ships arrived at the port yesterday. Sixteen gangs of labourers were working at ships at the outer anchorage of the port.

Cargo handling activities at Mongla port also went on normally.

Passenger launches piled normally to and from Sadarghat. Fifty-nine launches arrived while 24 launches left Sadarghat till 5pm yesterday. Ferry services of BIWTC on different riverine routes remained as usual, the handout said.

Alitalia chief resigns

ROME, Mar 9: The chairman of Italy's flagship airline Alitalia, harried by strikes and red ink, on Friday announced his resignation from the ailing carrier, reports AP.

The departure of Renato Roverso represents the end of a tough cost-cutting strategy to bring the company back to health.

Alitalia appeared to move quickly to name a successor. Reports said the Alitalia board will be asked to approve the nomination of Fausto Cereti, head of the aerospace unit of the state-holding company Finmeccanica.

China to continue 'moderately tight' monetary policy

BEIJING, Mar 9: A senior official said Friday that China's "moderately tight" monetary policy was consistent with the needs of the country's rapid economic development and would remain in place, reports AP.

The policy "has been proved correct by the macro-economic performance in China in the past two years and the steady improvement in the macro-economic environment," said Chen Jinhua, Minister in charge of the State Planning Commission.

Chen, addressing a media conference on the sidelines of the annual National People's Congress (NPC) session here, said the fall in inflation from 21.7 per cent in 1994 to 14.8 per cent last year "had a lot to do with the moderately tight monetary policy."

He rejected criticism particularly from cash-strapped local governments and state enterprises — that controls on credit were too tight, had been in place too long and needed to be eased.

"Without adequate money supply, we would not be able to achieve our goals of rapid economic development," he added, citing a World Bank analysis that said the level remained fairly high and that monetary policy should not be eased.

"This policy of adopting a moderately tight monetary policy, is consistent with the needs of developing the economy," he said.

In 1995, the narrow-M1 measure of money supply, which includes cash in circulation and enterprises' current account deposits, and the broader M2, covering cash and all forms of deposits, rose 16.6 per cent and 29.5 per cent respectively.

The government has this year pledged to keep increases in M1 and M2 within 18 and 25 per cent respectively as part of efforts to reduce inflation further.

If demand for money is stable, an increase in money supply is generally believed to lead to higher inflation.

"In 1996, we should continue to make curbing inflation the most important task of macro-control and bring inflation down to 10 per cent... we must not lower our guard in our price control efforts," Chen said Tuesday.

WB wants Chinese to pay for services

Fons Tuinstra writes from Shanghai

Families in Shanghai are in for an unpleasant surprise when they open their mail in April.

The city government — under pressure from the World Bank — is going to charge them for the treatment of waste water. The move is just the beginning of more far-reaching economic change.

"This is very new for China," says Zheng Xian Gu, general manager of the Shanghai Municipal Sewerage Company. "Until now companies and households didn't pay anything, or only very little, to have waste water dealt with. When money was needed, the government had to pay."

This is about to change. The Bank wants to establish the "polluter pays" principle as well as the idea that consumers should pay for services, whether water, electricity, health or education.

The charges will not be popular. Even the Bank admits it is a difficult issue "in the current inflationary environment," but says it received a "positive response" to the idea from the water industry.

Many debt-ridden state-owned companies will not find it easy to pay the new bills, but Zheng expresses confidence that "most companies will have no problems."

"We had long discussions with the World Bank about this issue," he says, indicating the caution with which the new approach is being taken up.

An even more controversial change is planned for the future: levies on the use of water.

The Bank intends to use the changes agreed in Shanghai as a lever in policy discussions on other projects in the provinces of Hubei, Guangxi and Yunnan.

The Bank's influence stems from its likely participation in the Shanghai company's planned construction of the biggest sewerage system in the country: a six billion yuan project, supported by a 250 million dollars World Bank loan.

Final approval has yet to be given by Beijing and the Bank, but the company hopes work will start later this year for completion by the year 2000.

It is already besieged by foreign businesses looking for a share in the scheme.

About 5.5 million cubic metres of waste water a day currently pours into the rivers around Shanghai. China's biggest city, with a population of more than 14 million.

The World Bank has given warning of "significant health risks" and restrictions to economic growth as a result of the appalling environmental effects.

Fish cannot survive in the lower Huangpu river and its tributaries, and shellfish downstream from the city contain high levels of pathogens that cause illness when eaten, says a Bank report.

Rapid economic growth has pushed up the use of water. Both private consumption and industrial use are rising quickly. Every year, 300,000 Shanghai residents move into new apartments, and often it is the first time they have had the benefit of their own shower and flushing lavatory.

"The problems were already obvious in the 1980s," says Zheng Xian Gu. "Then local and foreign experts developed a plan to solve the water pollution problem."

A first new sewerage system was built north of the city, around the area of Suzhou Creek, serving 2.5 million people. The system can treat 1.4 million cubic metres of waste water a day.

The planned facility would cover the new special economic zone of Pudong and two heavily populated parts of the old city. Its initial capacity would be 1.7 million cubic metres a day, rising to five million cubic metres by 2020.

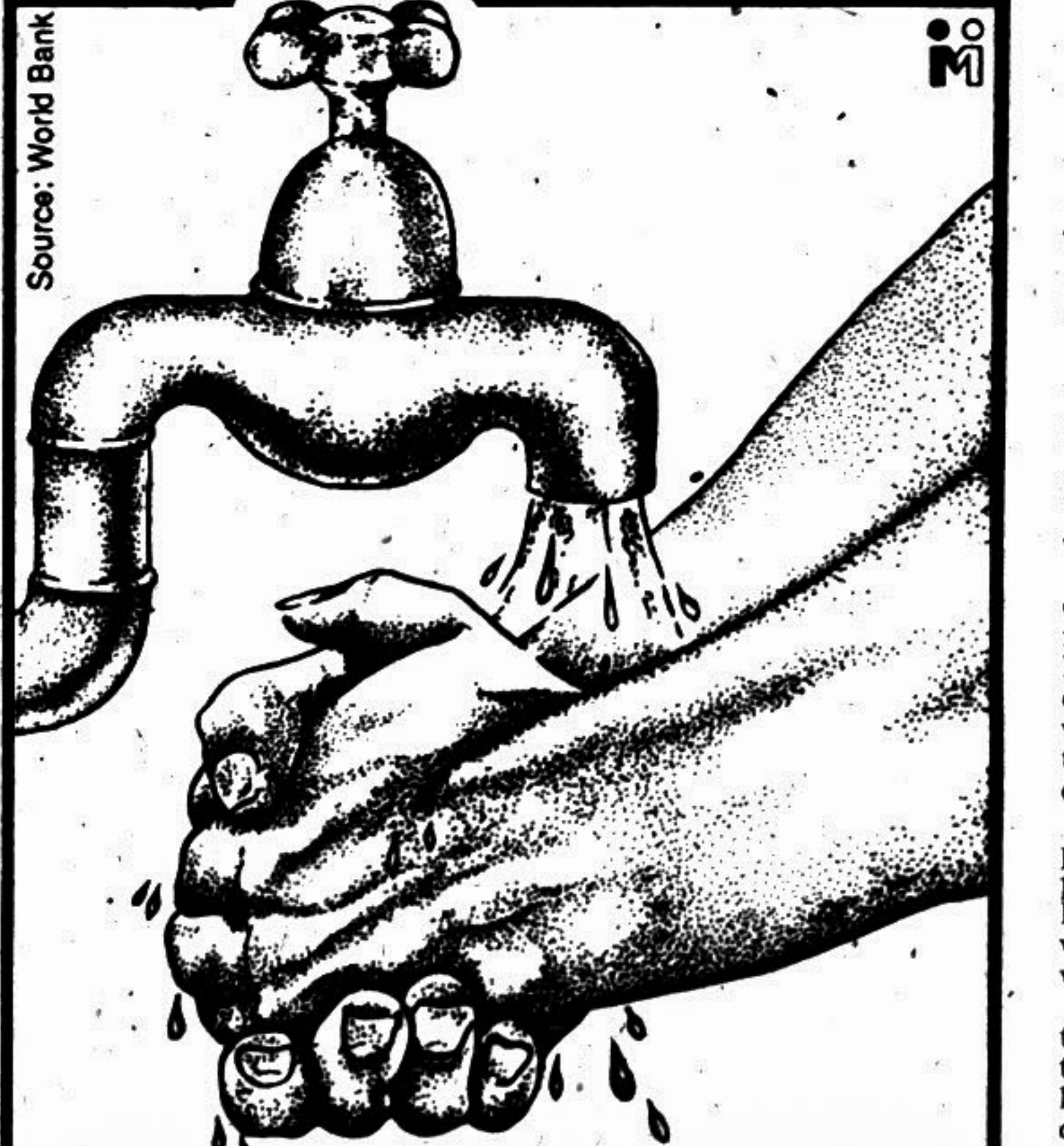
The World Bank says the plant would significantly improve the environment of the Huangpu and, in the long run, would protect Shanghai's fresh water supplies.

Paying for the service is not the only far-reaching innovation. Normally, the work would have been assigned to a couple of Chinese companies; but this project will be split into 30 sections and open to bidding by national and foreign firms.

"All interested companies can make an offer based on a bidding document," says Zheng. "If they don't want to follow this system, they won't get the job. Chinese companies are not used to this way of dividing the work, but they must get used to it."

— Gemini News
(Fons Tuinstra is a Dutch journalist working in China.)

Global clean-up



% of population with access to modern sanitation

	1975	1990
Low-income countries	23%	42%
Middle-income countries	44%	68%
Industrialised countries	-	95%

Janata Bank

The following are the dealing rates to public for some selected foreign currencies with Bangladesh Taka as on March 9, '96.

(Figures in Taka)

Name of Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	B.C.	T.T. Clean	O.D. Sight
US Dollar	41.1615	41.2015	40.8650	40.7032
GB Pound	62.8250	62.8861	61.8652	61.6203
D Mark	27.8362	27.8632	27.3459	27.2377
F Franc	8.1296	8.1375	7.9860	7.9544
C. Dollar	30.2393	30.2086	29.7010	29.5834
S. Franc	34.4039	34.4374	33.7966	33.6628
JP Yen	0.3932	0.3923	0.3823	0.3808

A) TT (Doc) US Dollar Spot Buying Tk. 40.7841
B) Usance Rate:
30 days 40.4660, 60 days 40.1425, 90 days 39.9190, 120 days 39.6955, 180 days 39.4884
C) US Dollar sight export bill 3 months forward purchase: Same as O.D. sight export Bill buying rate.
Indicative Rates (B. Tk. for one unit of foreign currency)

Currency	Selling		Buying	
	T.T. & O.D.	B.C.	T.T. Clean	O.D. Sight
S Riyal	Tk. 10.9752	Tk. 10.8275		
UAE Dirham	Tk. 11.2071	Tk. 11.0599		
Kuwait Diner	Tk. 137.8071	Tk. 135.8635		
D Quidder	Tk. 24.9162	Tk. 24.5746		
S Krona	Tk. 6.0310	Tk. 5.9628		
Malaysian Ringgit	Tk. 16.1856	Tk. 15.9623		
Singapore Dollar	Tk. 29.1739	Tk. 28.7624		

Janata Bank's selling and buying rates in cash currency for public

	US DLR	G.B.P	S.Riyal	UAE DH.	Kaw Dinar
Selling	42.3500	62.8336	11.3600	11.3600	136.8000
Buying	41.5000	60.5836	11.0000	10.7600	131.8000

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare
9/5 Iqbal Road, Mohammadpur, Dhaka-1207
No. BINP/R-Furniture/1-12/95/377
Dated: 02-03-96

Tender Notice

Tenders are invited from bonafide supplying firms for supply of office furniture and office machinery for Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project (BINP). 2.5% of the tender value should be deposited as earnest money with the tender through Bank Draft/Pay Order in favour of Project Director, Bangladesh Integrated Nutrition Project. Tenders will be received on 23-03-96 from 10-00 AM to 1-30 PM in Room No. 324 of Building No. 3 of Bangladesh Secretariat.

Decision of the authority will be treated as final in case of any error or omission and in accepting or cancelling the tender in part or full etc.

Tender schedule can be collected from the office of the undersigned during office hours up to 21-03-96.

DPP-4851-4/3
G-346
Khondker Mizanur Rahman
Project Director