



**Dhaka to get Tk. 15 cr Swiss grant**

Bangladesh will receive 37,68,500 US dollars, equivalent to about Tk 15 crore, from Switzerland as technical assistance grant under an agreement signed in Dhaka's yesterday, reports UNB.

Joint Secretary of the Economic Relations Division (ERD) Abu Saïd and Counselor of the Swiss Embassy in Dhaka Dr Peter Arnold signed the agreement on behalf of their respective governments.

The grant assistance will be used to finance the training and advisory services components of the Non-Formal Education Project which is being funded by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

**Communications Adviser tells MCCI members Caretaker admn striving to rejuvenate country's economy**

Adviser in charge of Communications, Shipping, Civil Aviation and Tourism, Post and Telecommunications and Housing and Public Works, Sayed Manzur Elahi, has said the caretaker administration was working tirelessly to ensure a very fair election and rejuvenate the economy for the welfare of the teeming people, reports BSS.

The government will appreciate any advice and proposal from the trade and industry and for that matter from all concerned quarters in this very onerous task," he said while addressing as the chief guest the members of Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) yesterday.

Besides the MCCI members, the function was also attended by the secretaries of the concerned ministries, representatives of various trade and business organisations and senior officials of different organisations under these ministries.

Sayed Manzur Elahi referred to the congestion in the Chittagong Port and said it was a priority issue for the caretaker government due to its importance as the main hub of foreign trade.

"It is, therefore, very satisfying that the port which handles as much as 75 per cent to 80 per cent of the country's foreign trade is close to normalcy," he said. He also said

that there would be further improvement in the port in the next few days.

Referring to MCCI's proposal to bring down the 400 per cent surcharge imposed by shipping companies at Chittagong Port due to congestion, the adviser said since the port was now cleared of congestion, there was no justification of imposing the surcharge by the shipping companies.

He also welcomed MCCI's proposal that Chittagong Port Adviser Committee should be chaired by the Secretary of the Ministry of Shipping for future development of the port itself.

"The Shipping Ministry will examine your proposal regarding the composition of Chittagong Port Advisory Committee," he added.

Sayed Manzur Elahi also referred to an announcement of the Adviser in charge of Finance and Planning during his meeting with MCCI members recently that "an inter-ministerial committee was already seized with the advisability extension of time-limit for 10 per cent import duty concession and waiver of port demurrage charges."

He said that the inter-ministerial committee would come to a decision shortly in this regard.

The adviser also said that a comprehensive plan was now being finalised for action to re-open the Benapole land port. "I

will visit Benapole land port shortly to see for myself the situations there and then give decisions on the measures which are due to be taken," he added.

Speaking about the law and order situation, the adviser said there was a significant improvement in this field and a lot of change would be seen in the next three or four days.

Besides, he said, things are changing in other fields like civil aviation and post and telecommunications. He sought advice from all concerned to further development in these vital fields.

In response to MCCI's allegation that Zia International Airport has become an object of national shame with unchecked flow of so-called visitors, patronised beggars and free operation of illicit currency brokers, Sayed Manzur Elahi assured that necessary measures would be taken to improve the atmosphere at the airport here.

The MCCI President, Samson H. Chowdhury in his address of welcome earlier proposed for providing chartering facilities of aircraft for urgent lifting of cargo.

He also put forward proposals from MCCI to the present government for keeping representatives from trade and industry in the T and T Board to help ventilate the users' view points.

**ANERA postpones increase in Ctg Port congestion surcharge**

The Asia North America East-Bound Rate Agreement (ANERA) has decided to postpone further increase in Chittagong Port congestion surcharge from April 15 to May 1, 1996 in response to the request of the Shippers' Council of Bangladesh, says a press release of the council.

ANERA earlier announced to enhance congestion surcharge for Chittagong Port from 100 US dollars to 200 US dollars per TEU and from 200 US dollars to 400 US dollars per FEU with effect from April 15, 1996. Immediately on receipt of this notice for enhancement of this surcharge, Shippers' Council of Bangladesh informed ANERA that with the resumption of full-scale round-the-clock operation of Chittagong Port from March 28, 1996 the prevailing congestion of vessels and containers at port jetties and its outer enclosure was expected to be cleared soon and therefore, they should not implement their earlier decision to further increase the congestion surcharge from April 15, 1996, rather withdraw the existing surcharge in the interest of our traded and shipping.

The council sincerely hoped that following this instance of ANERA, all Singapore-based feeder operators under Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC) and IPB Conference will also withdraw immediately their enhanced congestion surcharge which become applicable from April 8, 1996.

**Loan repayment timing cited in US Whitewater testimony**

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas, Apr 13: President Clinton's Whitewater partners paid off an old loan days after getting a 300,000 dollars loan from a small-time banker, testimony showed Friday, reports AP.

Four days after the loan was made on April 3, 1986, to Susan McDougal's advertising company, her then-husband, James, paid a bank 111,524 dollars to pay off the balanced of a 135,000 dollars loan he had received a year before, a witness said.

Richard Smith testified that his Stephens Security Bank had pressed McDougal four months earlier to pay the debt. The government did not specifically tie the 300,000 dollars loan to the payment to Smith's bank. The federally backed loan is the same one that banker David Hale has accused Clinton of pressuring him to make to his former partners.

The testimony came in the trial of the McDougals, who were Clinton's partners in the Whitewater real estate venture, and Gov. Jim Guy Tucker. A 21-count indictment accuses them of fraud and conspiracy in their use of 3 million dollars in loans from two government-backed banks.

One bank was Madison Guaranty Savings and Loan, which the McDougals owned, and the other was Capital Management Services Inc., which was operated by Hale. Hale, an unindicted co-conspirator in the case, would up

his testimony Thursday. Clinton has not been charged and has called Hale's account "a bunch of bull."

Smith testified Friday that his bank made the 135,000 dollar loan to James McDougal in exchange for a mortgage on property the McDougals were developing in west Little Rock under the name of Flowerwood Farms Inc. The loan was to be repaid in one year with interest.

He said McDougal made a 40,000 dollars payment in mid-January 1986 and that the check he received on April 7 paid off the remaining principal and interest on the loan.

Smith admitted he was not being pressured by bank examiners but said that he often used that excuse as a crutch to

collect loans.

In testimony Thursday, real estate broker Larry Kuca, said the fall of his mentor and business partner James McDougal was a disaster.

One day, McDougal seemed to be riding high. Kuca testified in the trial.

But the next day, McDougal had been kicked out of his savings and loan by federal regulators, Kuca recalled, and that left Kuca on the hook for more than half a million dollars in resort property on Canada's scenic Campobello Island.

Kuca, who pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor last year, has been sentenced to probation for two years and ordered to pay 65,862 dollars in restitution.

**OOCL appoints new chief financial officer**

Orient Overseas (International) Ltd has announced the appointment of Harry Wilkinson as a director and chief financial officer of the company with effect from July 1, '96, says a press release.

Wilkinson is currently the Managing Director & Regional Manager of Chemical Bank for Hong Kong, China and Taiwan and has considerable experience in the shipping industry.

He will succeed Simon Brough who retired from the Board and as Chief Financial Officer of Orient Overseas (International) Ltd, on March 31, 1996.

Syed Manzur Elahi, (3rd-R), Adviser for Communications, Shipping, Civil Aviation and Tourism, seen addressing the members of the Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce and Industry (MCCI) yesterday. MCCI President Samson H Chowdhury (2nd-R), also seen in the picture.

Higher import growth boosted Malaysia's external trade deficit from two billion ringgit (800 million dollars) in 1994 to 9.2 billion ringgit (3.68 billion dollars) last year, the Statistics Department said Friday, reports AP.

Imports grew by 24.7 per cent or 38.6 billion ringgit (15.44 billion dollars) to 194.5 billion ringgit (77.8 billion dollars) from 155.9 billion ringgit (62.36 billion dollars) in 1994.

On the other hand, exports jumped by 20.4 per cent or 31.4 billion ringgit (12.56 billion dollars) to 185.3 billion ringgit (74.12 billion dollars) from 153.9 billion ringgit (61.56 billion dollars) in 1994.

The purchase of 12 large commercial aircraft amounting to 2.9 billion ringgit (1.16 billion dollars) and 11 cargo vessels valued at 1.4 billion ringgit (560 million dollars) contributed to the trade deficit, the report said.

The department said machinery and transport equipment again constituted the largest proportion accounting for 116.7 billion ringgit (46.68 billion dollars) or 60 per cent of the total import expenditure.

**Malaysia's trade deficit worsens in '95**

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**US accused of blocking China's entry into WTO**

PARIS, Apr 13: Chinese Premier Li Peng accused Washington yesterday of blocking his country's entry into the World Trade Organisation, and threatened to grant privileged status to non-American business unless it changed, reports Reuter.

Li in answer to questions during a launch with French Businessmen on a visit to Paris, accused that United States of political discrimination.

"The United States demands that China fulfil the conditions for developed nations. We cannot accept this. We see this as political discrimination," he said.

"A superpower does not want to see China enter the WTO without difficulty," Li said, noting that according to World Bank criteria China was still a developing country.

China has for almost a decade been negotiating re-entry into the global trading system now supervised by the WTO, but Washington has insisted on tough terms for

Beijing's acceptance.

"If people insist on excluding China from this organisation, we will have no alternative but to develop bilateral trade relations. We have just bought 30 Airbus A320 (planes) and three A340s (from European consortium Airbus Industrie). We did not ask the WTO for permission," Li said.

"Who can stop the growth of our bilateral trade relations?" he asked.

US companies dominate the foreign share of China's fast-growing economy, and European nations including France and Germany, which are part of the European consortium, are anxious to catch up.

China was a founder member in 1948 of the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT), replaced by the WTO in January 1995. But it withdrew after the Communist takeover in 1949.

US trade officials said in a report released earlier this month that China "remains highly protectionist."



**China opens cable car for tourists**

BEIJING, Apr 13: With the opening of a new cable car, tourists no longer need struggle on foot up China's "most dangerous mountain," Mt. Huashan, an official report said Friday, reports AP.

The cableway, which took 18 months to build, has 34 coaches that can carry 1,300 passengers an hour, Xinhua said.

**US consumer prices make record jump in 5 years**

WASHINGTON, Apr 13: US consumer prices shot up 0.4 per cent in March, the steepest in more than five years, in a broad based advance fueled in part by demand for heating products, reports AP.

The US Labour Department said Friday the increase in its Consumer Price Index matched the advance in January when energy costs skyrocketed because of the blizzard that covered much of the east and frigid temperatures elsewhere.

Consumer prices advanced just 0.2 per cent in February, when temperatures moderated.

The 0.4 per cent increase was the largest since a 0.7 per cent jump in October 1990. Analysts had expected a 0.3 per cent increase.

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**S Korean bourse hails New Korea Party's victory**

SEOUL, Apr 13: South Korea's stock market hailed the ruling New Korea Party's victory in parliamentary elections with a two per cent surge in early trading, reports AFP.

**387 schemes executed in Majdee Court**

MAJDEE COURT (Noakhali), Apr 13: District Relief and Rehabilitation Department has implemented 387 schemes in six thanas and four poushas of the district during the current fiscal year, reports UNB.

The schemes, including earth filling of school grounds, construction of rural schools and clearing of garbages and water hyacinths, have been implemented utilising some 667 metric tons of wheat.

Besides, a total of 583 tons of wheat were also spent for implementation of 271 schemes in Sadar, Begumganj, Chatkhil, Senbag and Hatiya thanas under special relief programme during the current financial year.

Meanwhile, under Food for Works Programme, a total of 188 schemes were implemented in 6 thanas utilising 2,683 tons of wheat during the same year.

**United Insurance declares 17pc dividend**

United Insurance Company Limited earned a premium income of Tk 13.58 crore in 1995 which is 22 per cent higher than the previous year's total premium of Tk 11.16 crore, says a press release.

The company declared a dividend of 17 per cent for 1995 against 16 per cent in 1994 and gave three months' salary as bonus to all staff.

These were disclosed at the eleventh annual general meeting of the company held at a local hotel yesterday.

The company earned an underwriting profit of Tk 2.52 crore and a pre-tax profit of Tk 2.37 crore during the year. On December 31, '95, the assets of the company stood at Tk 39.74 crore and its reserves and retained profit amounted to Tk 5.48 crore.

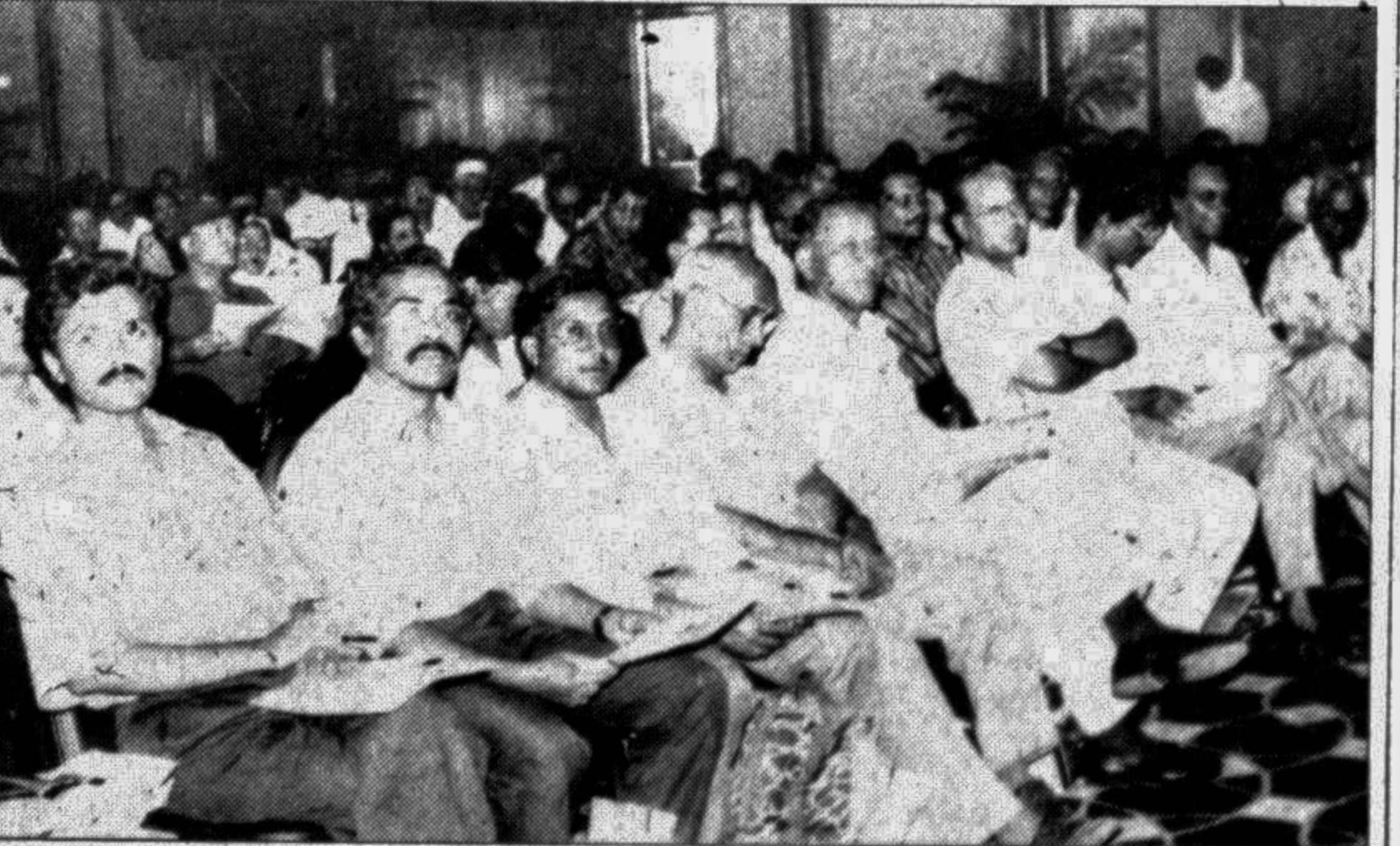
From the sponsors' group, M Moeedul Islam, Kafiluddin Mahmood and A S M O Subhan were re-elected directors while public subscribers, K Kamrul Hoda and M Hafizullah were re-elected directors of the company.

**Shippers' Council team leaves for S'pore Monday**

A 5-member delegation of Shippers' Council of Bangladesh will pay a 5-day visit to Singapore from Monday, says a press release.

The team, led by M R Ali, Chairman of Shippers' Council of Bangladesh, will meet Chittagong Feeder Trade Committee (CFTC) members and ANERA member lines in Singapore.

Other member of the delegation area: M Mohsin Sarker, Director (Traffic) of Chittagong Port Authority, AFMA Asad, Chairman, of Bangladesh Steamer Agents Association, Mahabub Ali, Chairman of Bangladesh Garment Manufacturers and Exporters Association Standing Committee on Ports and Shipping and Nurul Quayum Khan, Vice-President of Chittagong Chamber of Commerce & Industry.



Shareholders of the United Insurance Company Ltd seen attending the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of the company at a local hotel yesterday.

**PDB Tender Notice**

As per sealed tender notice no. APSC/Opa/AC-16/96/1015 dated 4-4-96 sealed tender is hereby invited from all categories of PDB enlisted contractors in the year 1995-96 who have garages and the contractors who are working under Govt, Semi Govt. and the Autonomous bodies who have also garages for repair works of Jeep Car No. Dhaka Bha-2462 with an estimated cost of Tk. 67,231/= (Sixty seven thousand two hundred thirty one) only. Detailed tender document will be obtained on payment of Tk. 100/= (one hundred) only (No refundable) from the office of the Asstt. Chief Engineer (Generation) PDB, WAPDA Building, Dhaka and the Manager, Janata Bank, Ashuganj branch, B. Baria till 13-5-96 Eng during office hours. No tender will be sold on the day of opening of this tender.

Executive Engineer (Opn) 128 MN Ashuganj Power Station Complex PDB, Ashuganj, B. Baria. Biddat Jan 1304(3)95-96 DFP-7593/94 G-481

**US car marketing in Japan facing problems**

KAWAGUCHI, Japan, Apr 13: Among the Japanese language signs for noodle shops and mom-and-pop stores in this northern Tokyo suburb, the giant blue Ford emblem stands out sharply, reports AP.

The fact that it's there at all is a mark of progress. The dealership, Ford Sainichi, used to be part of a strictly Nissan-only network.

**BCIC International Re-Tender Notice**

Managing Director, Khulna Newsprint Mills Ltd., Town Khalishpur, Khulna invites sealed quotation under 2 (two) envelope system against Tender Enquiry No. PD(F)-53B/95 for 2000 (two thousand) M.Ton Soda Ash (Light) on C&F(C) Mongla Liner Term basis under Cash Foreign Exchange so as to reach his office by 3:00 PM on 12-05-1996 which shall be opened immediately thereafter. Tender documents shall be available on payment of Tk. 970.00 only per set (non-refundable) from (a) KNM Ltd. (b) BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (c) BCIC Branch Office, 6-Agrabad C/A, Chittagong. Earnest Money is Tk. 1% of the total quoted C&F(C) Mongla value. No tender documents shall be sold on the date of opening. The authority reserves the right to accept or to reject any or all bids without assigning any reason thereof. BCIC 292-4/4/96 DFP-7240-7/4 G-483

**Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation**

Adamjee Court (5th Floor), 115-120, Motijheel Com. Area, Dhaka-1000

**International Tender Notice for Import of 12,500 M. Tons (± 5%) Sugar**

No. BSFIC/PD-3/150(74)/96 Dated: 13.4.1996

Sealed tenders are invited from bonafide suppliers/manufacturers by Bangladesh Sugar & Food Industries Corporation, Purbarag Bhaban (2nd Floor), 3, Dilkusha Commercial Area, Dhaka-1000 for import of 12,500 M. Tons (±5%) of sugar on C&F(C), Chittagong delivery basis. Source of fund will be WES. Sealed tenders will be received in tender box up to 11:00 AM on 04.05.1996 & opened in presence of the tenderers (if any) at 11:05 AM on the same day.

Tender documents with detailed specification and other terms and conditions will be available from the Addl. Chief Accountant (Head Office) of this Corporation at Adamjee Court (4th Floor), 115-120, Motijheel Com. Area, Dhaka-1000 and the General Manager (Shipping), BSFIC Shipping Office, Agra Chamber, 68, Agrabad Commercial Area, Chittagong on cash payment of Tk. 750/- (Taka seven hundred fifty) only (non-refundable) each on all working days between 9:00 AM and 12:30 PM. No tender documents will be sold on the day of opening of the tender. Corporation reserves the right to accept/reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever. S-F-405 Aminul Islam D-368 Chief (Purchase)