

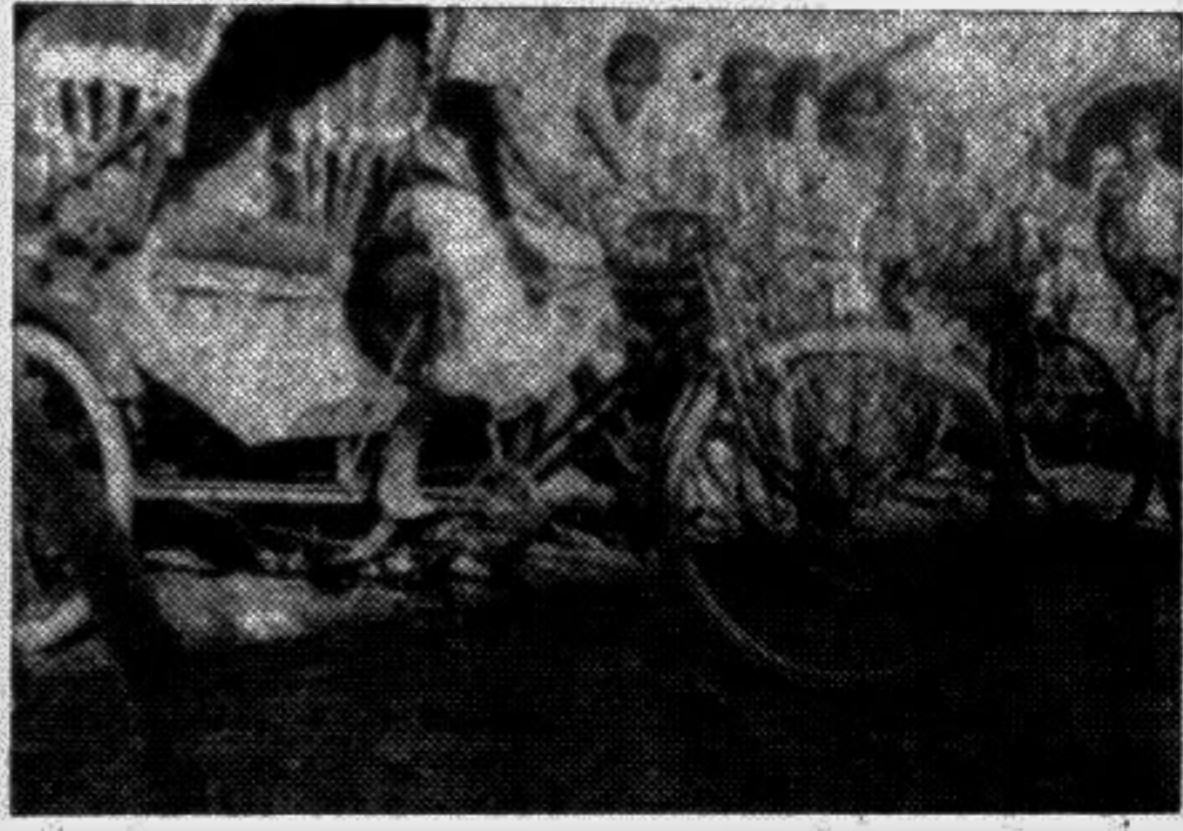
# Dhaka Day by Day

## Transforming Rickshaws

by Alif Zabr

One of my secret wishes is to ride on a better-designed cycle rickshaw. I wish I could design a rickshaw, but I am not a rickshaw designer. Come to think of it, the professional vehicle designers (with tertiary education) in our country are not experienced in designing rickshaws, the way we have experienced architects to design big buildings (note the Corinthian columns now in vogue, starting from the Mayor's palatial DCC building).

The situation reveals that the real, university-trained designers are not attracted towards the most popular form of public transport in the country: may be because this vehicle is not mass-produced in modern computerised factories. It is understood that the Mishuk 3-wheeler was designed in the local varsity campus. It looks amateurish, and lean, thin, and starved. Perhaps it was designed to match the average contour of the average passenger. I saw a new model of the Mishuk, but the changes were cleverly hidden.



Improved version of the vehicles could make their job less toilsome.

judgement of a bureaucrat. Life depends on sturdy brakes. There is only one pair of brakes fitted to the single and lonely front wheel, advancing bravely into the dense city traffic; whereas most of the weight is carried by the two rear wheels, where there is no brake. Technically, it is a dangerous design. We are too stoic to point out this shortcoming (perhaps it is too technical for the uninitiated to point out). The warning bell is the same as used with a bicycle. So you never know what is coming from behind, a 2-wheeler or a 3-wheeler. I have seen only one rickshaw here fitted with semi-auto wheel-spoke bell. The alarm, warning, or danger audio signal must be clearly identified, to prevent accident or collision.

From the human angle, the rickshaw driver cares as much about his life as he cares about the passenger's, so it is futile to warn him that his life is worth more than five or ten taka. So I change the angle of my appeal by pointing out that he has to spend a lot of money to get his vehicle repaired. He should not take uncalculated risk.

I have ridden cycle rickshaws in other countries where the driver sits at the back, or at the side. I do not know which method is best for both the driver and the passengers. Now, the designer has to incorporate a new safety feature: anti-bag-snatching device from the moving vehicle. Many of my relations of the fair gender have complained of such a misadventure. As for making the pedal rickshaw rain-proof, I have no idea, as the cost and weight would go up. Already a dozen or so improved rickshaws called trickshaws have been pressed into service on Dhaka streets. Ideally, make the rickshaw disappear; but practically, it has reasons to be there.

Now for the new wish list of improvements many of the passengers would like to see in the pedal rickshaw. First, the seat should not be French style. The length of the seat is suitable for intimately sitting together (and that too, publicly). Wider seat, please, extending over the wheels, for formal sitting. The wheels may be smaller, but then the number of revolutions per kilometre would be more, increasing wear of the tyre, and reducing its average life. Wider and thicker tyre would increase friction and traction. The width of the seat should be more generous, to prevent the passenger from slipping forward after sudden or hard braking, which is very frequent; as the rickshawpuller hasn't the foresight and

## No restriction in Constitution to try Bangabandhu's killers: Khasru

There is no restriction whatsoever in the Constitution to try the killers of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, the State Minister for Law, Justice and Parliamentary Affairs said yesterday, reports UNB.

Abdul Matin Khasru expressed the view while addressing the prize-giving ceremony arranged at the end of a day-long seminar on "Bangali, Bangabandhu and Bangladesh" in connection with the National Mourning Day in Comilla on Friday.

Referring to the Indemnity Ordinance, the law minister said Khandaker Mushtaque had no locus standi or legal authority to promulgate ordinance, since he was not a president as per the existing Constitution, which was not suspended nor was Parliament dissolved at that time.

Mushtaque became president after a bloody coup on August 15, 1975, in which President Sheikh Mujib and 14 of his family members were killed. It was followed by the murder of four top Awami League leaders in Dhaka Central Jail.

Later, the Mushtaque government promulgated an ordinance barring the trial of the killers, which is known as the

Indemnity Ordinance. As per the Constitution, in absence of the incumbent president, the then Vice-President, Syed Nazrul Islam, or in absence of the Vice-President, only the then Speaker, Abdul Malek Ukil, ought to have been the head of state, the Law Minister argued.

"Khandaker Mushtaque was simply a stranger, unfit to become president at that time," said the Law Minister.

He said only a legitimate president could promulgate ordinances consistent with the fundamental spirit of the Constitution as per Article 93.

Moreover, the law minister said, as per Article 93(2) it was mandatory for any ordinance to be placed in the very next session of Parliament to make it into a law. But the ordinance was never placed in Parliament. Hence, he explained the ordinance virtually became a "non entity" in the eye of law.

Citing articles 26, 27 and 31 of the Constitution, the law minister said no law or ordinance inconsistent with the fundamental principles of the Constitution could be promulgated or passed.

He said these articles say all citizens are equal in the eye of

law and will get equal protection under the existing law. "So promulgation of the black Indemnity Ordinance to protect certain killers is contrary to the provisions of the Constitution."

The minister said as per Article 46 of the Constitution only Parliament could pass indemnity law for acts during the Liberation War to safeguard greater national interest.

Nowhere in the 5th amendment to the Constitution was there any mention about the Indemnity Ordinance of Khandaker Mushtaque, he pointed out. So, he said, the ordinance is not part of the Constitution and, hence, no amendment is required to repeal the ordinance.

The State Minister for Law said if the Indemnity Ordinance has any legal base at all in the eye of the law, it could be easily repealed in Parliament by a simple majority vote of MPs.

State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader, Mujibur Huj Mujib MP, Faruk Kaiser MP, Dr Harunur Rashid, Prof-Anwarul Azim, Dr Mizanur Rahman and Advocate Afzal Khan also spoke on the occasion.

## Chinese defence team visits Staff College

The Deputy Chief of General Staff of the Chinese People's Liberation Army, Lieutenant General Kui Fulin, visited the Defence Services Command and Staff College (DSCSC) at Mirpur in the city yesterday, reports UNB.

DSCSC Commandant Major General Abdul Muneem Mansur Ahmed received General Kui Fulin and members of his entourage at the Staff College.

They were briefed on the activity and ongoing courses of the college, said an ISPR press release.

The delegation was also taken around different syndicates and the library of the college.

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## What's on today...

- Asiatic Society talk:** Dr A I Mahbubuddin Ahmed, Associate Professor, Dept of Sociology, Dhaka University will deliver a talk on Class, State and Urbanization in Bangladesh. Venue: Asiatic Society seminar room. Time: 5 pm.
- Science lecture:** Professor Nasim Khililur Rahman will deliver a lecture on "Application of Lasers in Bangladesh." National Museum of Science & Technology has arranged the lecture. Venue: NMST auditorium. Time: 4 pm.
- Discussion meet on Farakkah:** Bangladesh Muslim League has arranged a discussion meet on "Farakkah, Transit Issue and Future of Bangladesh." Venue: Photo Journalist Association auditorium. Time: 5 pm.
- Discussion on Bangabandhu:** Bangabandhu Parishad Janata Bank unit will hold a discussion on Bangabandhu marking the 21st anniversary of assassination of father of the nation Sheikh Mujibur Rahman. Chief guest: Mohammad Nasim, Minister for Post & Telecommunication. Venue: Janata Bank head office premises. Time: 4:31 pm.
- Musical soiree:** Biswa Sahitya Kendra has arranged a function on "Bangla Sattrial Music." Mita Haq, Lully Islam, Ifat-ara-Nargis, Mozilul Islam, Karim Sahabuddin, Maqbul Hossain, Rathindra Nath Roy and Sardar Ashrafuddin Babul will render songs. Venue: Isfendiar Jahid Hossain auditorium of the Kendra. Time: 7 pm.
- Publication Ceremony:** The publication ceremony of the book "Political Culture, Political Parties and the Democratic Transition in Bangladesh" by Dr Shamsul Khan, Aminul Islam and M Imdadul Haque will be held. Academic Publishers has published the book. Venue: German Cultural Centre, Road 9, House 10, Dhanmondi. Time: 4:30 PM.
- Rotary Club of Greater Dhaka:** The regular meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Officers Club, Bally Road. Time: 5:30 pm.
- Rotary Club of Dhanmondi:** The regular weekly meeting of the club will be held. Venue: Sonargaon hotel. Time: 5:30 pm.

## Govt committed to implementing Khuda Commission report

The government is committed to implementing the recommendations of the Kudrat-e-Khuda Commission of 1974. State Minister for Youth, Sports and Cultural Affairs Obaidul Quader said yesterday, reports UNB.

He was addressing a national seminar on S and T Information Infrastructures and Services in Bangladesh, held at Bangladesh National Scientific and Technical Documentation Centre (BANSDOC) in the city yesterday.

The Khuda Commission, which was formed by the government of Bangabandhu Sheikh Mujibur Rahman, highlighted the importance of national library services including public libraries, the State Minister said.

Regional Adviser of UNESCO Delia E Torrijob attended the function as special guest. Secretary, Ministry of Science and Technology, Muhammad Fazzur Rahman presided.

Dr Md Lutfur Rahman, Director, BANSDOC Dhaka presented the key note paper at the seminar, jointly organised by UNESCO and BANSDOC.

## Birth anniversary of Durga Charan observed

The 150th birth anniversary of saint Sri Durga Charan Nag Mahashaya was celebrated in Narayanganj at Deobhag Nag Bari Akhra yesterday with due solemnity, reports BSS.

A discussion was held on the life of saint Durga Charan at Akhra premises in the evening.

The discussion was participated among others, by A K M Shamim Osman MP, S M Akram MP, Swami Akkhra Nanda, Principal, Ramkrishna Mission, Dhaka, and Dr Dilip Kumar Bhattacharya, Professor, Dhaka University.

Speakers paid tribute to the great saint and recalled his services to the cause of humanity.

## Young man dies in city

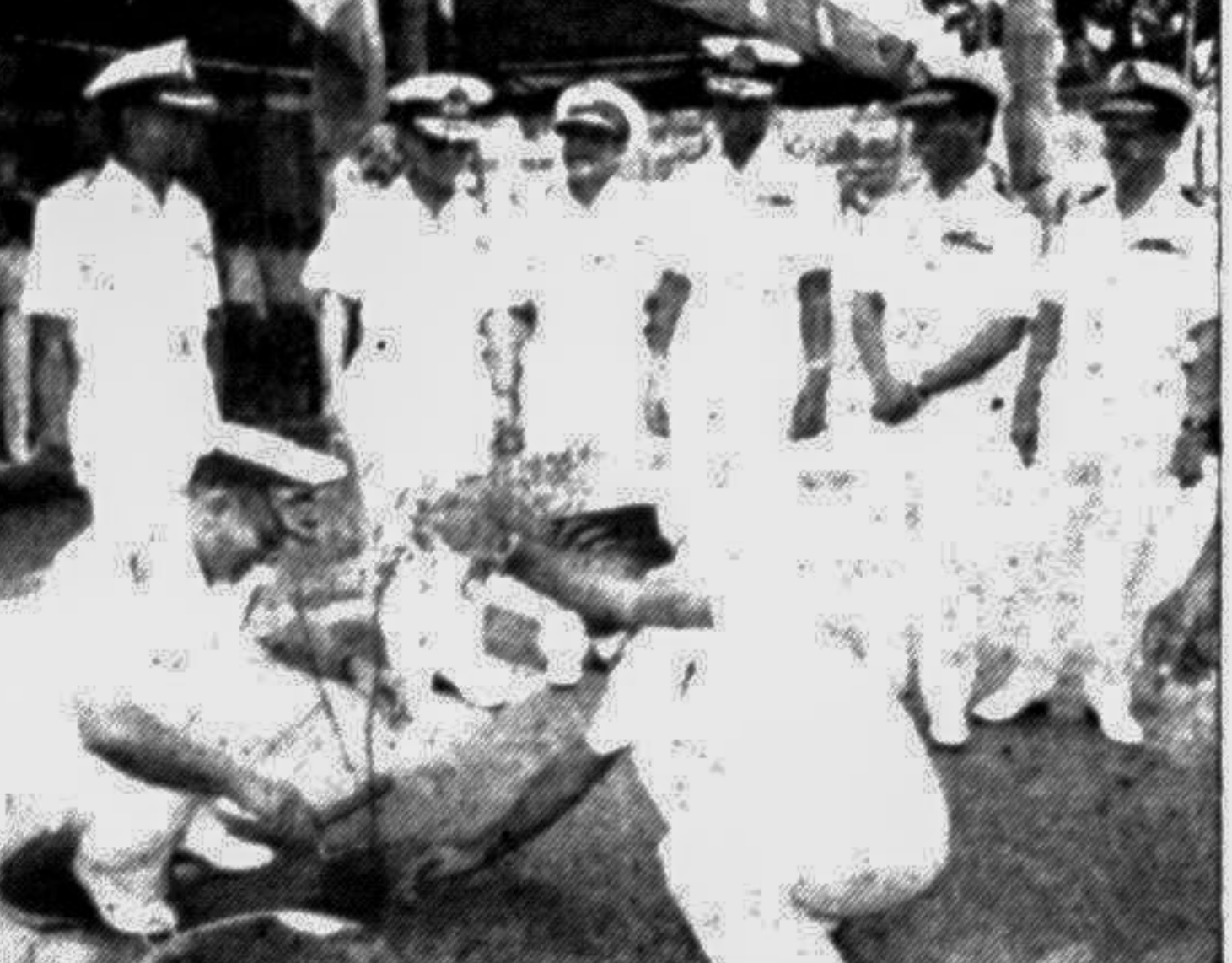
A young man, severely assaulted by an unidentified gang near Gora Shahid Mazar Wednesday, died at the Suhrawardy Hospital early yesterday.

The gang gouged out his eyes and also cut the tendons of the victim, Saleh Ahmed, 26, son of Golam Mohammad of Nure Satta Lane in Lalbagh area, according to reports.

Father of a two-year-old child, Saleh was rushed by local people to the Dhaka Medical College Hospital (DMCH) and later shifted to the Suhrawardy Hospital, police said.

The body was sent to the hospital morgue for autopsy.

According to reports, a gang of about five people kidnapped Saleh when he was returning to his house at Nure Satta Lane Wednesday afternoon. The cause of the kidnapping and attack was not known.



Chief of the Naval Staff Rear Admiral Mohammad Nurul Islam planting a sapling at the Sailors' Colony compound, Dhaka Cantonment on the concluding day of the annual tree-plantation campaign of the Bangladesh Navy yesterday. —ISPR photo



Amanullah Aman, MP speaking at a rally, organised by the Jatiyatobadi Chhatra Dal protesting recent incidents at the Dhaka University, in front of the Jatiya Press Club in the city yesterday. —Star photo

## Chinese trade team calls on Noor Uddin

A delegation of China National Machinery Export and Import Corporation called on Minister for Power, Energy and Mineral Resources Mohammad Noor Uddin Khan at his office yesterday, reports UNB.

Members of the delegation appraised the minister of the progress of work of the Barapukuria Coal-Mine Development Project. They showed keen interest in providing co-operation for generating power from the project in future.

The minister thanked them for their efforts in the project and sought cooperation of the organisation in Bangladesh's energy sector in future.

Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Zhang Xinjiang accompanied the delegation.

## ICVD extension work progressing

Health and Family Welfare Minister Salah Uddin Yusuf yesterday called upon the doctors to work with the attitude of serving the people, reports BSS.

He was speaking as the chief guest at the "national cardiology workshop" jointly organised by the Ministry of Health and Family Welfare and the World Health Organisation (WHO) at the National Institute of Cardiovascular Diseases and Research in the city. Health Secretary Mohammed Ali, WHO representative in Bangladesh Dr W Hardjotodno and the director of ICVD Prof M Akhteruzzaman also spoke on the occasion.

The minister said, the 2nd phase of work of extension of the ICVD to turn it into a 400-bed hospital was going on rapidly. He hoped that after the completion of the work the patients would not need to go abroad for better treatment.

The minister added, the number of cardiovascular patients in the country were increasing alarmingly. The government was trying its best to expand the facilities for cardiovascular treatments, he said.

Yusuf said, it was not possible to reduce the number of patients of cardiovascular diseases by only improving the facilities at the ICVD.

## Auction Notice

It is notified for general information of all concerned that a large number of Serviceable/Repairable/Unserviceable, empty Soyabean Oil Barrels, Vegetable Oil Cans, Drums, Polythene/Nylon/Gunny Bags, Plastic Jerricans, Tea Chest, other packing materials and used Engine Oil will be sold through open auction at 1000 hours on 17 September 1996 in "Base Supply Depot, ASC, Chittagong Cantonment". Rules and conditions will be intimated at the place of auction. Successful bidders will have to deposit 3% of income tax on the spot on the same day.

স্বীকৃত পি আর/সেমি/১৬/১৪৮৪  
DFF-18527-19/8  
G-986

**Commanding Officer**  
Base Supply Depot, ASC  
Chittagong Cantonment.

## Govt of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer, PHE  
18-DTP, Manikgonj Division, Manikgonj

### Tender Notice No 5/1996-97

Sealed tenders in Bangladesh Form No. 2911 are hereby invited from the DPHE, class-1 "C" category contractor renewed/enlisted for the year 1996-97 for the following works in Moulvibazar Pourashava under the Netherlands Assisted, 18 District Towns (18-DTP) water supply, sanitation and drainage project of DPHE.

Sl No	Description	Cost of tender document	Earnest money	Time of completion
1.	Construction of 450 m <sup>3</sup> over Head Tank with Co <sub>2</sub> stripper at Moulvibazar Pourashava.	1,500/-	2% of quoted rate by the contractor	270 (two hundred seventy) days.

1. The tender document will be available for selling on all working days during the office hours on requisite payment (non-refundable) up to 8/9/96 from the office of undersigned, the Executive Engineer, PHE, 18-DTP, P&D Division, 190 Arambag, Dhaka and Sub-Divisional Engineer, PHE, 18-DTP, Moulvibazar Sub-Division, Moulvibazar. The tender will be received in the said offices simultaneously up to 1.00 PM on 11.9.96 and will be opened at the office of the Project Director, DPHE, Dutch Assisted projects, 190 Arambag, Dhaka at 12.00 Noon on 15.9.96. Other information, terms and condition may be seen in the above office during the office hours. The undersigned reserves the right to accept the lowest or reject any or all tenders without assigning any reason thereof.

Md. Nazmul Hoque  
Executive Engineer, PHE, 18-DTP  
Manikgonj Division, Manikgonj

DFF-18699-21/8  
G-985

## BCIC International Tender Notice

বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিল্পায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, Zia Fertilizer Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, 3403, Bangladesh invites sealed quotation against Tender Enquiry No. ZFCL/OS-1841- For DIONIZER on C&F (C) Chittagong basis under any suitable source of finance. Cost of tender documents Tk. 400.00 per cent (non-refundable) available from the office of (1) The Controller of Accounts, BCIC, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (2) Senior General Manager, BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong and (3) General Manager (Accounts & Finance), ZFCL, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, 3403, Bangladesh. Tender should be submitted with Earnest Money 1% (one per cent) of the total quoted value to the office of the General Manager (Commercial), Zia Fertilizer Company Limited, Ashuganj, Brahmanbaria, 3403, Bangladesh up to 2.30 P.M. on 25.09.96 and will be opened immediately thereafter. No tender documents will be sold on the opening date. ZFCL reserves the right to accept any Tender or reject any one or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BCIC 847-14/8/96  
DFF-18328-18/8  
G-988

General Manager (Commercial)

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NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES/SHIPPERS

FEEDER VESSEL M. V. FONG YUN VOY 9619 IMP. ROT NO. 751/96 IS EXPECTED TO ARRIVE CHITTAGONG OUTER ANCHORAGE ON OR ABOUT 24.08.1996 WITH EVERGREEN CONTAINERS RELAYED AT SINGAPORE EX FOLLOWING VESSELS:-

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FEEDER 3 0012-013E	BELAWAN	HUB PERKASA 6050	PASIR GUDANG
FEEDER 3 0013-014E	BELAWAN	E. LEVEL 0006-123W	HONG KONG
UNI-FORTUNE 0507BS-094	PASIR GUDANG	LNYN 0766-003	LEAM CHABANG
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CONSIGNEES ARE REQUESTED TO CLEAR THEIR CARGOES IMMEDIATELY ON DISCHARGE. CARGOES UNCLEARED WITHIN 45 DAYS FROM THE ARRIVAL DATE OF THE VESSEL WILL BE DISPOSED WITHOUT ANY REFERENCE TO THE CONSIGNEES, AS PER CUSTOM RULES.

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