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The Daily Star

BUSINESS

DHAKA THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1997

HYUNDAI
CARS THAT MAKE SENSE

BGMEA step soon to reopen closed RMG factories

By Staff Correspondent

Bangladesh Garments Manufacturers and Exporters Association (BGMEA) will soon take initiatives to reopen the ready-made garment factories which were forced to shut down due to the political stalemate in the country during 1995 and early last year.

We will talk to the Governor of the Bangladesh Bank next month about measures that can be taken to reopen the factories," said BGMEA President Captain (Rtd) Anisur Rahman Sinha in a press conference at a local hotel yesterday.

Organised by the BGMEA forum, one of the two panels concerning the ensuing BGMEA election, the press conference was also attended by its Vice President S U Haider, Benazir Ahmed, an EC member of the Association, Anisur Hui, Managing Director of the Mohammedi Group and Chief Executive Coordinator of the forum, Gazi

Md Shahinawaz of Uttaran Group.

Sinha told the newsmen that some 350 to 400 factories were now closed which are not getting financial support from their banks.

Most of these factories, said the BGMEA President, faced closure due to stockout problem arising from failure in shipment and cancellation of export orders during that stalemate period.

"I will ask the banks to resume loans to the closed factories so that they can start business and repay bank liabilities," Sinha said.

He said, RMG was a prospective sector on which 12 lakh workers, mostly women, were dependent.

Explaining the complexities regarding the generalised system of preference (GSP) he said EU had agreed a two-stage derogation for the knittwars. "The

matter is settled and will take effect within two months," he maintained.

For the interim period government will subsidise those who will import yarns for knittwear manufacturing.

"The government declaration will soon come up," said Sinha.

He said the new office bearers headed by the Forum leaders, who took over the BGMEA office in November 6 last year, have resolved many important issues with banks, customs houses, insurance companies, ports, central bank, National Board of Revenue, Export Promotion Bureau, Ministry of Commerce and Industries and Ministry of Finance.

The banks from now on will not charge one per cent 'acceptance' fee, will introduce a 'single pool account' system, extend overdue interest period to 30

days from the current 21 days and also allow import of raw materials without opening Letters of Credit (LCs), he said.

The BGMEA leader will seek cooperation from the law enforcing agencies to protect the owners and the workers of the sector from the toll collectors and *mastans*.

Sinha urged the government to create another Tk 500 crore fund for establishing backward linkage industries to maintain RMG's competitiveness. A fund of similar amount has already been created.

He felt that the rate of value addition should be lowered to 15 per cent for manufacturing fashionwears. A 30 per cent value addition has been a criteria set by the government to manufacture RMG.

To keep competitiveness, BGMEA has demanded further devaluation of Taka.

3-day UK Trade Fair opens in city Mar 9

By Staff Correspondent

A British Trade Fair, first of its kind in Bangladesh, will be held at a city hotel next month.

The British High Commission in Dhaka will organise the three-day UK Trade Fair at Hotel Sheraton from March 9 to 11.

The main objective of the fair is to promote trade and investment between the two countries. British High Commissioner David Walker is likely to open the fair where a number of British companies will set up different stalls for displaying their products.

The British Council has invited seven British education institutions to participate in the fair to provide information regarding education and training services in UK, says a press release by the British Council.

They will also offer an opportunity to prospective students to have access to up-to-date information on all types of

courses, on the spot interviews and counselling sessions on specific queries.

During the fair a special public lecture will be presented by Sir Colin Campbell, the vice Chancellor of University of Nottingham. He will speak on "Reform in Britain's Higher Education".

Senior members of academic institutions, education funding bodies, members of ministry of education, students and guardians are expected to attend the lecture.

On the occasion the British Council has published an education guide, an illustrated reference book covering profiles of all participating institutions. It also included useful information about UK education system and equivalence charts. One copy of the guide will be issued free to each visitor to the British Council and institution stalls.

PEREGRINE BANGLADESH INDEX

Wednesday's market comment

The market bounced back as the PBI gained 1.3 per cent on good volume to close at 846.7. However, trading was mixed as 12 issues advanced over 12 losers. One issue remained unchanged. The property stocks led the winners as Eastern Housing and Shineeupur topped the plus column with a 8.49 per cent and 8.2% appreciation respectively. Chittagong Cement and Beximco Synthetics gained 6.7 per cent and 5.8 per cent respectively on institutional demand. Square Pharma added 5.5 per cent on institutional demand. Square Pharma and Prime Textile were amongst the notable losers as they dropped 6.0 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively under foreign selling pressure whilst Meghna Cement (-3.1%) and BTC (-1.9%) succumbed to retail profit-taking. ULC did not trade.

Exchange Rates

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 19/02/97

Selling	Buying				
Name of Currency	T.T. & O.D.	B.C.	T.T. Clean	O.D. Sight Export Bills	O.D. Transfer
US Dollar	42.9120	42.9650	42.6200	42.4550	42.3438
GB Pound	69.1977	69.2781	68.1868	67.9066	67.7286
D Mark	25.5829	25.6126	25.1542	25.0508	24.9852
F Franc	7.5696	7.5783	7.4430	7.4124	7.3929
JP Yen	0.3501	0.3505	0.3420	0.3406	0.3397
C Dollar	31.8299	31.8668	31.2943	31.1657	31.0840
S Franc	29.2935	29.3274	28.7916	28.5733	28.5981

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

	US DLR	GBP	S RIYAL	UAE DH	KU DINAR
SELLING	42.9000	68.1977	11.6500	11.6500	141.0000
BUYING	42.3000	65.9477	11.2000	11.1500	135.5000

Shipping Intelligence

Chittagong Port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 19.2.97.

Berth No.	Name of Vessels	Cargo	L Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Leaving	Arrival
J/1	Hong Xiang	Urea (G)	Sing	Seacom	31/1	19/2
J/2	Net Jiang	CI	Sing	BDSHP	1/2	21/2
J/5	Banglar Shobha	Urea (G)	Marc	BSC	11/1	24/2
J/6	Yong Tong	Urea (G)	Sing	Litmond	7/2	20/2
J/7	Prudent					
	Challenger	CI	Yoko	AMCL	6/2	22/2
J/8	Golden Grace	Urea (G)	UMM	Litmond	11/2	21/2
J/9	Siba	M Seed	Bomb	Rainbow	15/2	21/2
J/11	Jupiter-1	CI	Bang	Prog	10/2	20/2
J/12	Daiyu Maru	CI (D Peas)	Sing	AASS	27/1	25/2
J/13	Faarabi	CL	Mong	SSL	16/2	21/2
CT/1	Q C Teal	Cont	Sing	QCSL	10/2	20/2
CT/2	Meng Kiat	Cont	Mong	BDSHP	15/2	19/2
CT/3	Da Fu	Cont	Sing	APL (B)	17/2	20/2
RM/4	Mekhanik					
	Gortienko	Cement	Sing	RML	R/A	21/2
RM/5	Capt X Kyriakou	HSO	Mapt	ECML	13/2	19/2
RM/6	Ocean Promise	Naptha	Sing	MSTPL	17/2	19/2
DD	Banglar Jyoti	C Oil	BSC	R/A	19/2	
DD	Banglar Mont	Repair	Mong	BSC	15/1	22/2
DDJ/1	Tanary Star	Idle	Para	PSAL	7/6	
DDJ/2	Communist	CI	BSC	R/A	21/2	
RM/9	Banglar Robi	Repair	Mong	BSC	16/2	22/2
CUPLJ	Blue North					
(Atch 10/7)	Cement	Qing	PSAL	3/6	20/2	

Vessels Due At Outer Anchorage

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Freeisa 11/2	19/2	Mong	BDSHP	Cont
Huang Cheong	19/2	RML	Mong	Col
Emeral Venture	19/2	Mong	Simat	Ballast

Tanker Due

Name of Vessels	Date of Arrival	Local Agent	Cargo	Loading Port
Canopus	21/2	Sing	ECML	HSO
Jian She-25	22/2	Sing	BDSHP	Lube Oil
Dignity	23/2	Aden	ECML	HSO/JP-1
Mormar Spirit	22/2	Aden	Seacom	CDSO

Vessels At Kutubdia

Name of Vessels	Cargo	Last Port Call	Local Agent	Date of Arrival
Ismaya			B Bay	9/1
Mariupl	Wheat (P)		AASS	12/2
As Pilos	C Oil		BSC	11/2
Banglar Shourabh	C Oil		BSC	R/A

The above were the shipping position and performance of vessels of Chittagong Port as per berthing sheet of CPA supplied by HRC Group, Dhaka.

Tk 25cr British grant for BRAC project

Britain's Overseas Development Administration (ODA) has approved a grant of 4.2 million pounds sterling equivalent to over Tk 25 crore for Reproductive Health and Disaster Control Project of BRAC, reports UNB.

British High Commissioner David Walker signed the accountable grant letter confirming approval at a simple ceremony at BRAC head office yesterday. BRAC Executive Director Fazle Hasan Abed was also present.

The new grant will bring ODA's total contribution to BRAC's health services to just over 5.6 million pounds sterling equivalent to Tk over 36 crore since 1992, said a British High Commission press release.

BEPZA chief leaves for HK to tap fund

By Staff Correspondent

Executive Chairman of Bangladesh Export Processing Zones Authority (BEPZA) Moazzem Hossain Khan left Dhaka yesterday for Hong Kong in a week long visit to tap foreign investment, says a press release.

During the visit he will attend a number of seminars and symposia and meet various prospective investors.

The BEPZA chairman will also brief the prospective investors about different facilities and incentives given by the Bangladesh government to foreign investors.

There are 19 industries in the country's EPZs set up by Hong Kong based investors with a proposed investment of more than 66 million US dollars equivalent to Tk 283.80 crore. Of these, 11 industries are in Chittagong and rest eight are in Dhaka EPZ.

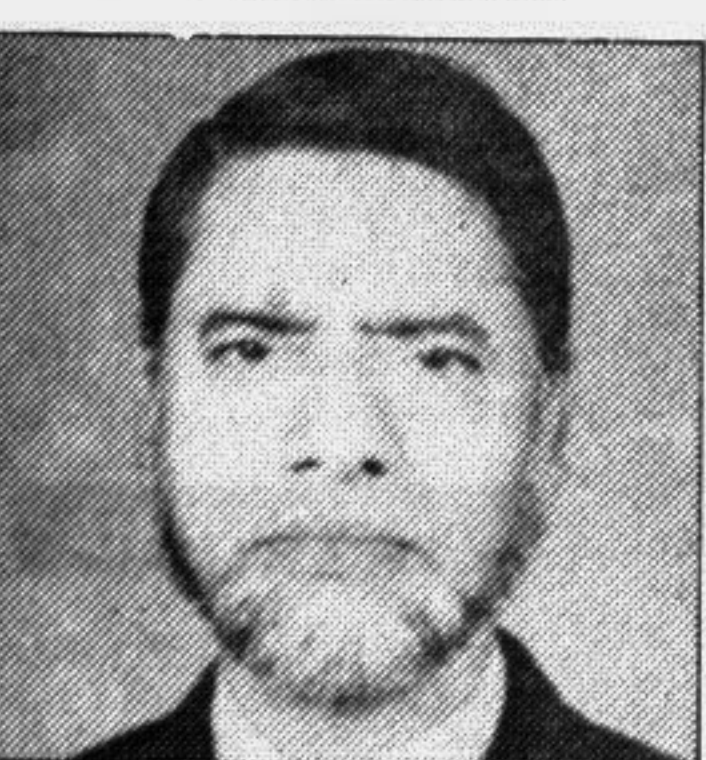
Lanka's tea output reaches record 258m kg

COLOMBO, Feb 19: Sri Lanka's tea production reached a record 258.4 million kilos (568.48 million pounds) last year, up from 245.96 million kilos in 1995 and 242.21 million kilos in 1994, official figures showed yesterday, reports AFP.

While Sri Lanka exported slightly more tea last year, export earnings remained virtually stable.

Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) retained their position as the top buyers of Sri Lanka tea but Turkey made a dramatic comeback to win the second slot.

New MD of Jiban Bima



Jiban Bima Corporation recently appointed Mohammad Ali Managing Director (current charge) of the corporation, says a press release yesterday.

Prior to present assignment he was the General Manager for Chittagong region.

He held various important positions in the corporation, the press release added.

Pak textile body blasts EU for anti-dumping duty

KARACHI, Feb 19: Pakistani textile manufacturers Tuesday launched an attack on the European Union (EU) for imposing a 32.5 per cent anti-dumping duty on fabrics branding it 'ill-treatment' of Pakistan, reports AFP.

The anti-dumping duty imposed by the EU on other countries including India, Egypt, Indonesia and Turkey was only 15 per cent, they said branding the decision an arbitrary decision against Pakistani products.

APTMA, an apex body representing the spinners, weavers and garment and apparel manufacturers, pointed out that an ongoing anti-dumping investigation by the EU into exports of cotton fabrics from Pakistan was a matter of 'grave concern' for the industry as well as for the country.

It is unfair and unjust even the European Trade and Commerce Association have accepted the Pakistan's view, Shaikh Akbar, convener of APTMA's anti-dumping committee said.

The European Commission in November imposed the anti-dumping duty on the import of grey cloth fabric, resulting in a decline of around 180 million dollars in export earnings. All Pakistan Textile Mills Association (APTMA) said.

Textiles and related products constitute around 60 per cent of the country's total export earnings.

The government should immediately seek necessary changes and amendments in the WTO laws which are discriminatory and contrary to the interests of developing countries, Akbar added.

He said that an APTMA delegation recently visited Brussels to persuade officials that the investigations and resulting

levels were also against the interest of the EU.

Euro Commerce a major association of European traders found consensus on the need to reform the anti-dumping laws, Shaikh said.

India's bid to privatise rly failed

NEW DELHI, Feb 19: India's bid to privatise its railways has been a failure, a newspaper reported today, according to AFP.

The Asian Age said the industry would do a u-turn after failing to attract private investors during the past three years.

The newspaper, quoting sources in the Railway Ministry, said the government's efforts to attract 257 million dollars of private investment last year had failed, with only 128 million dollars raised.

"When the liberalisation process began it was felt that the railways too should join the bandwagon and help the economy develop. However, calculations went away when the response was not up to expectations."

"The railways have therefore decided to roll back its privatisation efforts," a source said.

He said a large number of wagons have remained idle for the last six months due to a 'recessionary trend' in the economy and freight movement had slowed down, causing a loss of about 100 million dollars to the railways.

India has the largest railway network in the world which carry some 13 million passengers daily.

Janata Bank to give 5pc rebate on loan interest

By Staff Correspondent

Janata Bank has decided to give rebate to its clients on interest of their loans, said a press release.

Those who received project and house building loans from the bank and repayed within the schedule time according to the conditions in the allotment letter, will get five per cent rebate on interest.

This is being done according to Bangladesh Bank regulations.

Hoechst to manufacture medicine at Renata plant

An agreement has been signed for manufacturing of penicillin and cephalosporin of Hoechst Bangladesh Limited at the manufacturing plant of Renata Limited, successor company of Pfizer-Bangladesh, says a press release.

The agreement was reached after Hoechst Marion Roussel's technical team was satisfied that Renata has the necessary infrastructure to produce medicines to high quality standards of both European Community and FDA of United States.

The agreement has been approved by Ministry of Health, and Renata will start manufacturing these products under licence from Hoechst from April this year.

This was jointly disclosed by Dr. DF Houle, Managing Director, Hoechst Bangladesh Limited and Dr. Sarwar Ali, Managing Director, Renata Limited at a reception held yesterday at a local hotel.

Prof. M. Amanullah, State Minister for Health and Family Welfare was present as Chief Guest.



Hoechst Bangladesh Ltd and Renata Limited arranged a reception at a local hotel to celebrate a manufacturing agreement between them. Seen in the picture are (from left) D Bhadury, Managing Director, Hoechst Marion Roussel, India; Dr JF Houle, Managing Director, Hoechst Bangladesh Ltd; S H Kabir, Chairman, Renata Limited; Dr Sarwar Ali, Managing Director, Renata; Dr BE Hofmann, Managing Director, Hoechst South Asia Investment Ltd and M J Stoppel, Managing Director (Pharma), Hoechst Bangladesh.

Ctg may have Asia's leading int'l airport in 2000

Chittagong International Airport will be one of the leading airports in Asia after implementation of its development project (phase one) in the year 2000, reports BSS.

It was observed by Project Director Ahmedul Islam Choudhury when a group of newsmen from Dhaka visited Chittagong airport yesterday to know the progress made so far in the process of its implementation.

He said the work of the main project would start in the next three to six months following the completion of the process of its implementation.

Choudhury said the overlaying of the 10,000-ft runway, a part of the project, was being done swiftly at a cost of Taka 26 crore which was expected to be completed soon to start the main work of the project.

According to official sources, Taka 550.00 crore project proposal was prepared and

approved by the Executive Committee of National Economic Council (ECNEC) in June last year.

"Subsequently a soft term loan agreement of Taka 444.84 crore for the project was signed between Bangladesh and Japan in August last year," the sources said, adding that rest of the amount would be provided through local currency.

Chittagong airport development project is one of the 10 projects in Dhaka and Chittagong financed by various Japanese agencies where the newsmen visited with diplomats of Japanese Embassy in Dhaka as well as representatives of Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) and Overseas Economic Cooperation Fund (OECF) of Japan on February 17 and 18.

Choudhury referred to the increasing interest of foreign investors towards Bangladesh by virtue of the relentless ef-

orts of the present government and said dialogues were on to establish STOL ports in Mongla, Bogra, Sandwip, Hatiya, St Martin island and Kuakata side by side the development of airports in Bangladesh.

He said the importance of Chittagong International Airport would grow higher than Dhaka airport in terms of handling of passengers as well as cargo in larger numbers and volumes after implementation of the project.

Choudhury giving probable pictures of future passengers and cargos to be handled by this airport said that as many as 300,000 domestic passengers and 220,000 international passengers would pass through Chittagong International Airport in the year 2005.

"This airport will handle 450 tons of domestic cargo and 5,200 tons of international cargo in the same year," he said

adding the passengers on domestic and international routes were 13,000 and 46,000 respectively and cargo 355 tons and 289 tons respectively in 1993.

Chittagong airport is also being viewed as an alternate to Dhaka airport in case of future floods as the 1988 flood has closed the runway of Dhaka airport diverting all international flights to Calcutta.

The government has recognised that unrestricted air-transport in Chittagong is indispensable for economic development and social welfare and has decided to develop Chittagong airport as a full fledged international airport.

Based on the report of JICA's study in 1989, the project titled "Development of Chittagong airport into international airport for operation of wide bodied aircrafts (phase one)" was approved by the ECNEC in August 1991.

But its implementation remained suspended for want of foreign assistance, the official sources said adding that Japan had later come forward with a fund of Japanese OECF amounting to Taka 12.21 crore for detail design study of the project.

According to the project profile, the airport located 11 kms south of the centre of Chittagong city, will have, among other modern facilities, the 2,940 metre runway with 45 metre width to accommodate B-747 aircraft.

The runway strip will be 3,060 metre long with 300 metre wide side by side two taxiways of 23 metre width each while the passenger terminal building will be 18,850 sq.m and cargo terminal building will be 2,870 sq.m.

It is expected that there would be promotion of foreign investment, tourism, security for emergency rescue and navigation safety with the implementation of this project.

গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
উপাধীনিক শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তর
প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা বিভাগ
২/৬, ব্রক-ই, লালমার্গ, ঢাকা

তারিখ: ২২-০২-১৯৯৭ খ্রিঃ ০৮-০২-৯৭ ইং

প্রাথমিক ও গণশিক্ষা বিভাগের নিম্নলিখিত উপাধীনিক শিক্ষা অধিদপ্তরের উপাধীনিক শিক্ষা প্রকল্প-৩-এর আওতাধীন মৌলিক পর্যায় (৮-১৪) বর্ষের বয়সী নিম্নরূপ ১,০০০ (একশত হাজার) সামর্থ্যহীন শিশুদের ২ বর্ষের (২৪ মাস) মেয়াদী কর্মসূচী বাস্তবায়নের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত প্রকল্প এলাকায় নিম্নোক্ত শর্ত সাপেক্ষে যোগ্য ও অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন বেসরকারী সংস্থা (এনজিও)দের নিকট থেকে প্রকল্প প্রস্তাব আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে।

প্রকল্প এলাকা: ঢাকা মেট্রোপলিটান শহর এলাকা।

শর্তাবলী

১. সমাজসেবা অধিদপ্তর/মহিলা বিষয়ক অধিদপ্তর/এনজিও বিষয়ক ব্যুরোর রেজিস্ট্রেশন থাকতে হবে।
২. অস্বাভাবিক ও অস্বাভাবিক সংগঠন হতে হবে।
৩. সর্গস্ত্রে রেজিস্ট্রেশন আইন অনুযায়ী অনুমোদিত গঠনতন্ত্রের কপি দাখিল করতে হবে।
৪. অনুমোদিত গঠনতন্ত্র অনুযায়ী সংস্থার সর্বশেষ ম্যানেজিং কমিটির সদস্যদের নামের তালিকা দাখিল বস্তুনিষ্ঠভাবে আবেদনপত্রের সাথে সংযুক্ত করতে হবে।
৫. সংস্থার নিজস্ব অফিস (কেবল/শাখা) এবং যোগাযোগের টিকানা উল্লেখ করতে হবে।
৬. সংস্থার সাক্ষরকারী কর্মসূচী এবং ঢাকা শহরে এক বা একাধিক স্থানে কার্য করার আয় থাকতে হবে।
৭. নিজস্ব পূর্বে রেজিস্ট্রেশন প্রাপ্ত এবং উপাধীনিক শিক্ষা কর্মসূচী বাস্তবায়নে তিনত ২ বর্ষের অভিজ্ঞতাসম্পন্ন সফলকর অভ্যবহার করা হবে।
৮. উপাধীনিক শিক্ষা কর্মসূচী পরিচালনার জন্য প্রশিক্ষণপ্রাপ্ত যোগ্য জনবল থাকতে হবে।
৯. মহিলা ও শিশুদের উন্নয়নমূলক কর্মসূচীর সহিত সম্পৃক্ত সুনামের অধিকারী সংস্থাকে অধিকার দেয়া হবে।
১০. কর্মসূচী পরিচালনার জন্য বেসরকারী সংস্থার নিজস্ব ভাড়া, কর্মকর্তা, কর্মচারীর বেতন ভাতা ও অন্যান্য আনুষঙ্গিক ব্যয় বহন সার্বিক থাকতে হবে এবং অর্থিক স্বচ্ছতা সম্পর্কে ব্যাংক সার্টিফিকেট সংযোজন করতে হবে।
১১. সংস্থার আর-বায়ের ব্যবহার হিসাব সতর্কতায় পদ্ধতি ও সর্বশেষ অডিট রিপোর্ট প্রকল্প প্রস্তাবের সাথে জমা দিতে হবে।
১২. কর্ম এলাকায় বেইন লাইন সার্ভে করার সামর্থ্য থাকতে হবে এবং নিজস্ব ভাড়া বেইন লাইন সার্ভে করার ব্যয় থাকতে হবে।
১৩. উল্লিখিত কর্ম এলাকাকে উপাধীনিক শিক্ষা কর্মসূচী বাস্তবায়নের জন্য অন্য কোন উদ্দেশ্যে অর্থ ব্যয় করা যাবে না।
১৪. শহর এলাকায় উপাধীনিক শিক্ষা কর্মসূচী পরিচালনাসহ যে সকল সংস্থার নিম্ন প্রতিক্রিয়ার নিচে কার্য করার অভিজ্ঞতা আছে তাদের অধিকার দেয়া হবে।
১৫. যাবতীয় কাগজপত্রের কপি প্রথম শ্রেণীর সরকারী কর্মকর্তা কর্তৃক সত্যায়িত হতে হবে।
১৬. অত্র অধিদপ্তর কর্তৃক বিভিন্ন সময়ে প্রদত্ত পরামর্শ/নিক নির্দেশনা অনুযায়ী কর্মসূচী বাস্তবায়ন করতে হবে।
১৭. আগামী ১৭-০২-৯৭ ইং থেকে ২৭-০২-৯৭ ইং দুপুর ২টা পর্যন্ত প্রকল্প প্রস্তাবের নির্ধারিত ক্রম অনুসরণে বাস্তবায়ন শাখা থেকে সংগ্রহ করতে হবে এবং সে অনুযায়ী প্রকল্প প্রস্তাব আগামী ০১-০৩-৯৭ ইং তারিখে দুপুর ২-৩০ মি-এর মধ্যে সর্গস্ত্রে লালমার্গ জমা দিতে হবে। নির্ধারিত সময়ের পর কোন অবস্থাতেই প্রকল্প প্রস্তাব গ্রহণ করা হবে না।

ডিএফপি-৩১০২-১২/২
জি-৪৮৩

বিনয় কুমার কর্মকার
পরিচালক (বাস্তবায়ন)।