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HYUNDAI
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City Cell to give phone connections in Ctg from today

From Staff Correspondent

CHITTAGONG, Mar 27: City Cell, a private organisation, is poised to provide 30,000 cellular telephone connections to the clients in the port city in one and a half years time.

Chairman of City Cell Morshed Khan, MP, disclosed this at a press conference today at a local hotel.

Khan said, the City Cell had already chucked up launching operation of cellular telephone in the port city from tomorrow.

With the launching of cellular operation, City Cell has opened a new chapter in economic activities of Chittagong, the chairman said.

City Cell also plans to introduce cellular telephones in the towns of Sylhet, Khulna and some other areas by the last quarter of this year, he informed.

City Cell, a pioneer in cellular telephone operations in Bangladesh was established 7 years ago, and it went into commercial operation in 1993 in Dhaka.

New DMD of Sonali Bank

MA Hashem yesterday joined Sonali Bank as Deputy Managing Director, says a press release.

Before taking up the assignment, he was the General Manager of Bangladesh Shilpa Bank.

He also discharged his responsibilities as the General Manager of Rupali Bank Ltd.

GrameenPhone launched

By Staff Correspondent

On the Independence Day, Grameen Telecom set a landmark in the history of communication system in Bangladesh by launching its cellular phone service for mass use.

Grameen Bank members in villages can now own cellular phones at very lucrative instalments wherever the GrameenPhone establishes its network. The GrameenPhone is also available in Dhaka and will be available in Chittagong at the end of the year.

Grameen Bank's cooperative member Laily Begum, a simple village woman, marked the breakthrough by dialling Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina from her home village Patira in the afternoon. Patira is situated only 15 km away from Dhaka but it lacks all city amenities excepting for electricity.

"My name is Laily. I am a Grameen Bank member. How are you?" the first owner of rural pay-cellular phone asked the Prime Minister over the short call.

Prime Minister Sheikh

Hasina earlier inaugurated the GrameenPhone system by calling the Norwegian Prime Minister from her office.

GrameenPhone Ltd, the company which has been awarded a nation-wide licence for GSM 900 cellular mobile phone, is a concern of the Grameen Bank. Grameen Bank's affiliate Grameen Telecom is the 35 per cent shareholder of the GrameenPhone while Telenor Invest AS of Norway holds 51 per cent share. Japan's Marubeni 9.5 per cent and Gomphone, a New York-based company holds 4.5 per cent share.

The GrameenPhone aims at covering all the regions of the country by cellular phone with 2.5 lakh connections by the year 2000 with an investment of Tk 360 crore.

"We have started our trial operations today with the capability to provide 6500 connections," said Shahed Latif, GrameenPhone's second man. GrameenPhone is offering a competitive price for its cellular phones and call charges and promoting the concept of pay-phone in the villages in order to give the mass people the benefits of modern communication technology. In the cities, a GrameenPhone, along with connection will be available for Tk 23,100 along with a refundable Tk 5000 security while in the villages, security fee is not required.

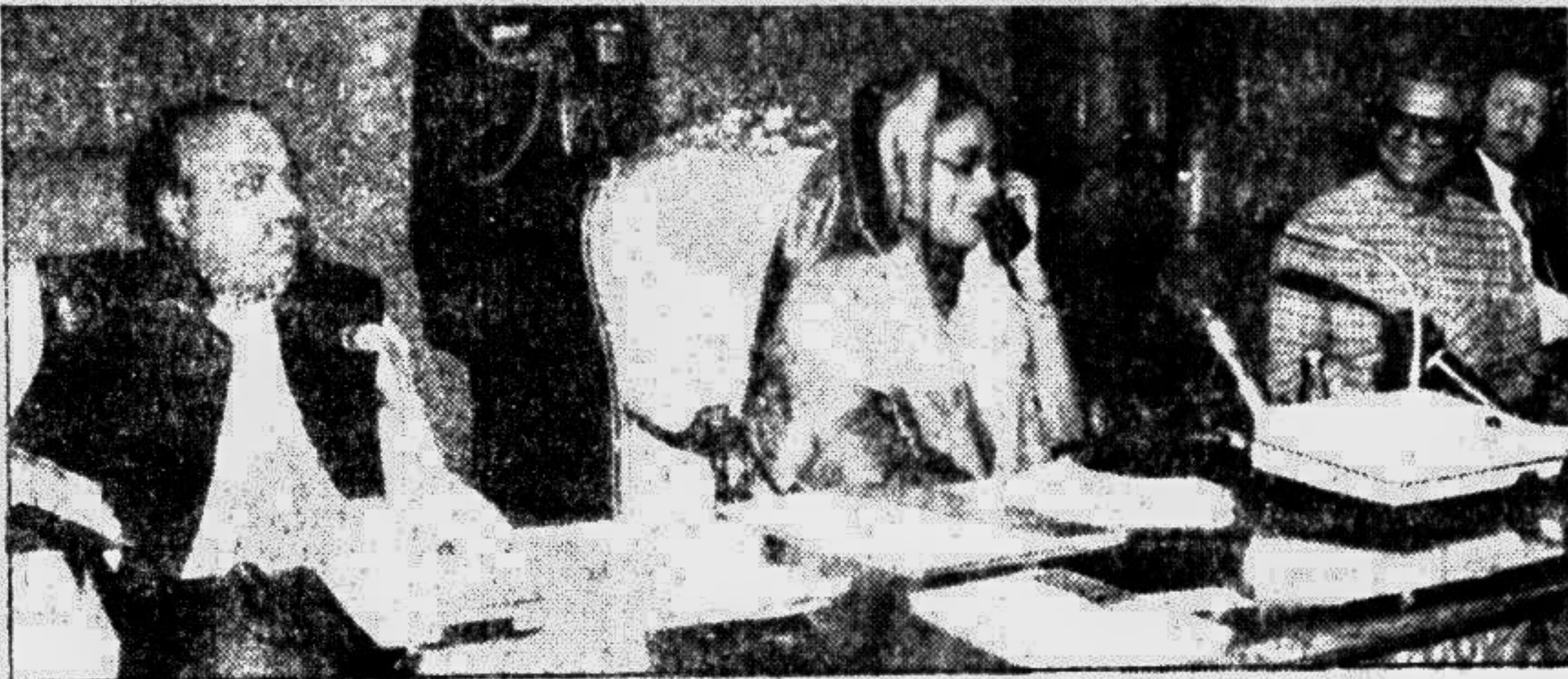
GrameenPhone is also offering cheaper call rates. During 8 am to 8 pm, the charge for outgoing call would be Tk 4 per minute and during 8 pm to 8 am the charge would be Tk 3 per minute. There will be no charge for in-coming call.

Like Laily Begum of Patira village, Grameen Bank members can own their phones for a weekly instalment of Tk 150 plus a Tk 40 weekly line rent. They can use their phones commercially by charging users Tk 3 or Tk 4 (depending on the timing of use) per minute. The GrameenPhone will charge owners of the phones nearly half that price.

He laid emphasis on speedy completion of the ongoing Chinese funded projects and hoped that China will come up with new projects in near future.

The Commerce Minister told the envoy that China is a very good friend of Bangladesh and has become our development partner. He sought Chinese help in setting up a paper mill at Chhataak and thermal power plant at Barapukuria.

He also stressed the need for taking joint-venture projects



Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina inaugurated GrameenPhone network on Wednesday by calling her Norwegian counterpart Torbjorn Jagland from her office. —PID photo

China to provide technical aid Diammonium phosphate plant to be set up soon

A Diammonium Phosphate (DAP) plant will be set up in the country soon with the technical assistance of China, reports UNB.

A Chinese technical consultant will visit Bangladesh in the first week of April to finalise the project.

The disclosure was made by the newly appointed Chinese Ambassador to Bangladesh Wang Chungui when he called on Commerce and Industries Minister Tofael Ahmed at his office in the city Tuesday.

The proposed DAP plant will have the initial production capacity of 300,000 metric tons which will gradually be raised to 600,000 metric tons to meet the growing local demand for inorganic, said an official hand-out.

It said the Diammonium Phosphate can equally meet the nitrogen and phosphorous content of soil and it can ease the pressure on urea for nitrogen and TSP and SSP for Phosphorous content which are frequently used by the farmers.

There is a plenty of opportunity to expand economic and trade relations between China and Bangladesh, the Chinese Ambassador said.

He also stressed the need for taking joint-venture projects

with China in infrastructural and industrial sectors.

Earlier, Thai Ambassador to Bangladesh Sunthorn Vithayathit called on the Commerce Minister at his office.

Vithayathit informed the minister that a Thai business delegation will visit Bangladesh next month to explore investment opportunities in various fields.

Industries Secretary M Akhter Ali was present on the occasion.

The 16th annual general meeting of National Tubes Limited was held at its factory premises at Tongi Industrial Area on Tuesday with KAM Kamaluddin, acting Chairman of BSEC and Chairman of the company board in the chair.

The company declared 15 per cent cash dividend and one bonus share for each two ordinary shares.

Managing Director of the company Dr. Mirza Khairuzaman, all other directors and a large number of shareholders were present at the AGM.

The audited accounts and directors' report of 1995-96 were adopted in the meeting after detailed discussion.

At the AGM, Mujibur Rahman Khan, Saiful Islam and Pirzada Torab Hossain were elected directors of the company.

Exchange Rates

Janata Bank

The following are the Janata Bank's dealing rates (BD Tk for one unit of Foreign Currency) to public as on 27/03/97.

Name of Currencies	Selling		Buying	
	O.D.	B.C.	T.T. Clean	O.D. Sight Export Bills
US Dollar	43.3620	43.4150	43.0700	42.9030
GB Pound	79.8561	79.9376	69.8404	69.5541
JP Yen	25.9098	25.9396	25.4725	25.3681
DM Mark	7.6742	7.6830	7.5478	7.5168
C.Dollar	31.7450	31.7814	31.2163	31.0883
S.Franc	29.9142	29.9485	29.4065	29.2860

Transfer

Transfer	O.D.	O.D.
42.7912	42.7912	42.7912
69.5541	69.5541	69.5541
25.3016	25.3016	25.3016
7.4971	7.4971	7.4971
31.0068	31.0068	31.0068
29.2092	29.2092	29.2092

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

	US DLR	GBP	S.RIVAL	UAE DH	KU DINAR
SELLING	43.4500	69.6061	11.8000	11.7500	142.5000
BUYING	42.9500	67.6061	11.4500	11.2500	137.0000

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD Bhola Road Division, Bhola

Notice of RHD Inviting Tender

- Tender Notice No: 78 BHRD of 1996-97
 - Name of work: Earth work in widening the road embankment at 2nd (p) and 3rd (p) km of Gazipur-Talukderhat-Shanherhat-Dawary Bazar road under Bhola Road Division, Bhola, during the year 1996-97 Ch to 266 C/A.
 - Estimated cost: Tk 6,46,380/-
 - Earnest money: Tk 12,950/-
 - Time allowed for completion of work: 45 (forty-five) days from date of issue of work order.
 - Eligibility of bidder: 'A' to 'C' class general category of RHD and 'D' class general category of Barisal Road Circle, Barisal and 'E' class general category of Bhola Road Division, Bhola.
 - Office of the Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bhola/Barisal/Perjapur/Patuaakhali.
 - Planning Division (P&D), Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
 - Sub-Divisional Engineer, RHD, Road Sub-Division, Bhola/Charfession.
 - The Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bhola/Barisal/Perjapur/Patuaakhali.
 - Name of offices of availability of tender document:
 - 1) The Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal.
 - 2) The Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barisal.
 - 3) The Superintending Engineer, RHD, (P&D) Circle Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
 - 4) The Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bhola/Barisal/Perjapur/Patuaakhali.
 - Name of offices to receive tender:
 - 1) The Additional Chief Engineer, RHD, Barisal Zone, Barisal.
 - 2) The Superintending Engineer, RHD, Road Circle, Barisal.
 - 3) The Superintending Engineer, RHD, (P&D) Circle Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka.
 - 4) The Executive Engineer, RHD, Road Division, Bhola/Barisal/Perjapur/Patuaakhali.
 - Last date of selling tender: 1.04.97E/18.12.1403B up to office hours
 - Last date of receipt of tender: Up to 12.30 PM on 2.4.97E/18.12.1403B.
 - Date & time of opening tender: 6.4.97E/23.12.1403B at 11.00 AM.
 - Date & time for lottery: At 11.00 AM on 7.4.97E/24.12.1403B.
- Md Mostofa Kamal
Executive Engineer, RHD, (CC)
Bhola Road Division, Bhola.
- DFP-5416-16/5
G-823

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Office of the Executive Engineer
Facilities Department
Kushtia Zone, Kushtia

Tender Notice

No-09/PSS/Madrasa/Revenue/Latrine/Kush ZFD/96-97 Dated: 11/03/97
Tenders in Bangladesh Form No-2911 under sealed cover are hereby invited from Facilities Department's A1/A2/A3 class enlisted contractors/contractor firms for construction work of two-unit sanitary latrine at the educational institutions under selected Secondary Educational Institution Development & Rehabilitation (Govt. & Private) and selected Private Secondary School Renovation & Development Project.

Project: Secondary Educational Institution Development & Rehabilitation (Govt. & Private) Project.

Gr No.	District	Thana	Number of institutions	Estimated cost (Taka)	Amount of earnest money (Taka)	Class of contractor	Time limit for completion of work
1	Kushtia	Sadar	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
2	Kushtia	Sadar	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
3	Kushtia	Kumarkhali	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
4	Kushtia	Khoksha	3 (three)	1,63,206/-	3,270/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
5	Kushtia	Bheramara	6 (six)	3,26,412/-	6,530/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
6	Kushtia	Mirpur	6 (six)	3,26,412/-	6,530/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
7	Kushtia	Daulatpur	6 (six)	3,26,412/-	6,530/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
8	Kushtia	Daulatpur	6 (six)	3,26,412/-	6,530/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
9	Chuadanga	Sadar	3 (three)	1,63,206/-	3,270/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
10	-do-	Jibannagar	2 (two)	1,08,804/-	2,180/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
11	-do-	Damurhuda	3 (three)	1,63,206/-	3,270/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
12	-do-	Alamdanga	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
13	-do-	-do-	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
14	Meherpur	Sadar	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
15	-do-	Gangni	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
16	-do-	-do-	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months

Project: Selected Private Secondary School Renovation & Development Project.

17	Kushtia	Sadar	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
18	-do-	Kumarkhali	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
19	-do-	Khoksha	3 (three)	1,63,206/-	3,270/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
20	-do-	Mirpur	3 (three)	1,63,206/-	3,270/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
21	-do-	Bheramara	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
22	-do-	Daulatpur	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
23	Chuadanga	Sadar	3 (three)	1,63,206/-	3,270/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
24	-do-	Jibannagar	3 (three)	1,63,206/-	3,270/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
25	-do-	Damurhuda	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
26	-do-	Alamdanga	5 (five)	2,72,010/-	5,450/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
27	Meherpur	Sadar	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months
28	-do-	Gangni	4 (four)	2,17,608/-	4,360/-	A1/A2/A3	2 (two) months

a) Price per set of tender is Tk 400/- (four hundred) only (non-refundable).
b) Earnest money: Prescribed earnest money mentioned against each group must be submitted with the tender through Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Kushtia Zone.

- Last date of selling tender document: 02/04/97 up to office hours.
- Last date & time of receiving tender document: 03/04/97 up to 12:00 Noon.
- Date & time of opening tender box: Will be opened on 03/04/97 at 12:30 PM in presence of the tenderers (if any) present.
- Offices where tender document can be purchased from and will be received at: Can be purchased from the office of the undersigned, office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Jhenidah/Jessore/Khulna/Bagerhat Zone and the office of the Deputy Commissioner, Kushtia and Assistant Engineer, Facilities Department, Kushtia/Chuadanga/Meherpur during office hours (up to the prescribed date & time) and the tender documents will be received and opened at the said offices on the prescribed date & time.

Terms & conditions:

- At the time of purchasing tender, contractors should apply in their own pads.
- At the time of purchasing tender, contractor/firm owner or his representative (authorised person) should produce the original copy of contractual licence register (renewed for 1996-97).
- True copy of VAT Department registration certificate should be attached with the tender. Tender without the true copy of registration certificate will be treated as cancelled outright. No certificate on VAT will be acceptable.
- Tender quoting rate more than 5% (five per cent) below the estimated cost will be treated as cancelled outright.
- In the interest of progress of work, one contractor will not be given work of more than one group under the same notice.
- The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender or reject all tenders without assigning any reason.

DFP-6281-16/3
G-821

Shamsuddin Ahmad
Executive Engineer

MOU for BMRE of Karnaphuli Paper Mills signed

A Memorandum of Understanding for BMRE of the Karnaphuli Paper Mills was signed Tuesday between the Industries Ministry and Martech International Inc. USA, reports UNB.

An estimated Taka 348.70 crore, including Taka 237.32 crore in foreign exchange, will be spent for it, said a handout.

Joint Chief of the Industries Ministry AKM Khairul Alam and President and executive chief of Martech Dr Hebab A Kazi signed the MOU.

Under the memo, Martech will provide financial assistance to BMRE of KPM. After implementation of the proposed BMRE project, the production capacity of KPM is expected to increase from 30,000 metric tons to 48,000 mt annually.

Industries Secretary M Akhter Ali, BCIC Chairman AIM Nazmul Alam, Chief of Economic and Commercial Section of US embassy in Dhaka Cornelia M. Weinbach and high officials of the ministry and Martech were present on the occasion.

Netherlands officials visit Dutch-Bangla Bank

A team comprising FJ Smit, Deputy Managing Director, Netherlands Development Finance Company (FMO) and Director, Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited (DBBL), Gritt M. van Kampen, Investment Officer, FMO visited Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited head office, in the city Tuesday and met the officials of the branch and head office of the bank, says a press release.

The team had a review meeting with AHM Shawkat Ali Chowdhury, Managing Director and Md. Omar Chowdhury, Advisor of the bank. Teb Marius, Johan Strijk, Consultant from ABN-AMRO Bank were also present.

The meeting was presided over by Mohammed Sahabuddin Ahmed, Chairman of Dutch-Bangla Bank Limited.

Thailand's trade deficit widens

BANGKOK, Mar 27: Thailand's January trade deficit fell 11.6 per cent from the same month last year to 39 billion baht (1.5 billion dollars), the finance ministry said yesterday, reports AFP.

Exports grew 5.1 per cent year-on-year to 110.3 billion baht, while imports expanded 13.3 per cent over the same period last year to 154.9 billion baht, a report received a day ahead of the official release of the central bank figures said.

Exporters has fallen 3.1 per cent year-on-year in December, while 1996 also showed negative growth of 0.7 per cent compared to the previous year.

The January current account deficit was down 22.1 per cent on the year to 22.5 billion baht, but it had widened from 19.1 billion baht in December.

It's time to buy share, says SEC chief

The Securities and Exchange Commission chief Tuesday said there is nothing to be panicked, rather it's time to buy share, reports UNB.

"In fact, this is the time for investment, the investors should not off-load their holdings hurriedly, there is no reason for panic," said Dr Harunur Rashid, the SEC Chairman, commenting on the stock market situation.

He told UNB that if the fundamentals of the issuing companies are compared with the share prices, it can be said that a tremendous opportunity for investment is prevailing now in the capital market.

The DSE All Share Price Index experienced major erosion for the second consecutive day Tuesday and the experts said that it might sink below the level of 1000 points in a day or two if the bearish trend continues. Meanwhile, yesterday, the price index jumped to 1157.60 points, indicating a rise of six per cent.

The benchmark index, which shed about seven per cent on Monday and again went down by 6.31 per cent Tuesday,

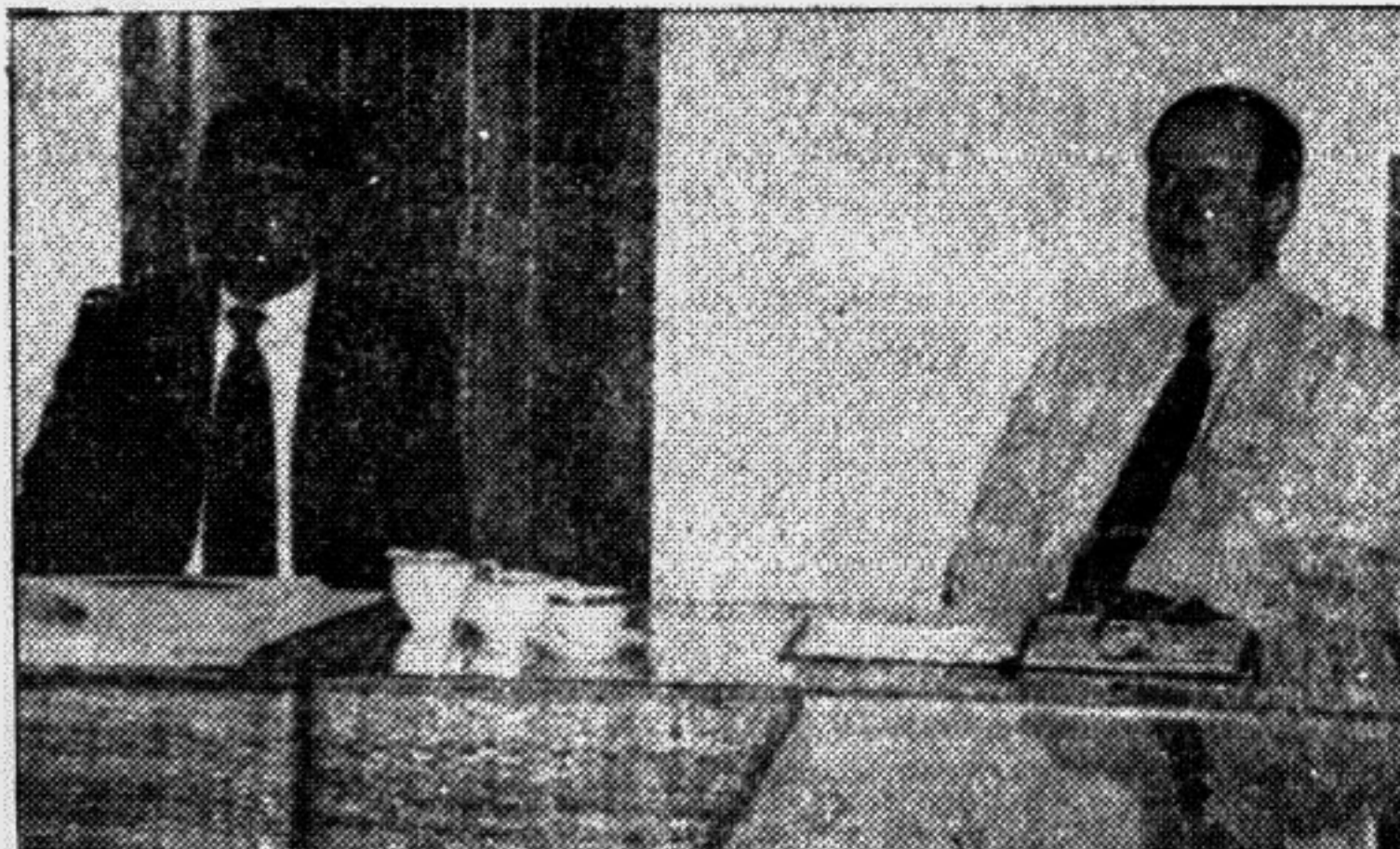
reached 1074.00 points with losses heavily outnumbering the gainers almost everyday since the downside began in mid-November.

Dhaka source said, the market is under a selling pressure for the time being, saying the retail investors were selling heavily in a panic that the market would go down further.

Asked if the current downside — seen as abnormal by market experts — is the impact of the activities of the enquiry committee constituted to probe the alleged irregularities in the market, the SEC Chairman said it might be.

But there is no reason of apprehension for the general investors and other market players. There is nothing to be afraid for the investors, other than those who were involved in the reported irregularities in the share market, he said.

He mentioned the measures taken by the SEC, Bangladesh Bank and the Investment Corporation of Bangladesh (ICB) to stabilise the market and said the loan facility for the investors and brokers is now available from the banks.



The CEO of Grey Asia Pacific and the Executive Vice-President of Grey International, JE Fox, arrived in Bangladesh recently to have a glimpse of Trikaya Grey business in this country. He was accompanied by Nirvik Singh, CEO Trikaya Grey India and Darshan Mehta, Financial Director of Trikaya Grey India. Trikaya Grey Advertising Bangladesh Ltd is a joint venture between Apex Group of Companies and Trikaya Grey. JE Fox in his visit reinstated the point that Trikaya Grey has focused on the Indian sub-continent especially on India, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and Mauritius and identified this region as the jewel in the crown in the Asia-Pacific section of the business.

BILANCE official visits ASA project

Pieter Damiën, Head of Asia Desk of BILANCE, paid a three-day visit to Cox's Bazar Sadar, El-digh, Rana and Court Bazar of the district. He also attended the weekly meetings of ASA (Association for Social Advancement) from March 20 to 22, '97 to observe the implementation of its microcredit programme for poverty alleviation, says a press release.

He visited the unit offices of ASA at Cox's Bazar Sadar, El-digh, Rana and Court Bazar of the district. He also attended the weekly meetings of ASA landless women's groups and observed several income generating projects conducted by the group members.

BB treasury bills auctioned

The 36th auction of 90-day treasury bill, the 27th of 30-day and 180-day treasury bills, and 1st auction of one-year treasury bill of the Bangladesh Bank were held here yesterday, reports UNB.

Thirty-three bids for a total of Tk 206 crore against the 30-day bill, 15 for Tk 29 crore against 90-day bill and two bids for Tk 10 crore against 180-day bill were offered.

Of these, 29 bids for a total of Tk 187 crore of the 30-day bill and 13 bids for a total of Tk 19 crore of the 90-day bill were accepted.

No bid was accepted against the 180-day bill and no bid was offered against the one-year bill, said a BB press release.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Ministry of Education, Naogaon Zone, Naogaon

Office of the Executive Engineer, Facilities Department, Ministry of Education, Naogaon Zone, Naogaon

Tender Notice

No-26/Development/EE/FMO/Na-296-97 Dated: 10-3-97