

### Dollar higher against yen in Tokyo

TOKYO, May 21: The US dollar was higher against the yen at midday Wednesday in Tokyo after the US Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged, reports AP.

The dollar was traded at 113.98 yen, up 1.56 yen from late Tuesday in Tokyo and also above its late New York level of 113.04 yen overnight.

Traders said short-covering buying lifted the dollar in Tokyo Wednesday as high as 114.22 yen where it met a wave of sell orders.

On Tuesday, the dollar plunged as low as 111.98 yen in Tokyo, its lowest level since December 6, following a report that Japan's ruling Liberal Democratic Party wants higher interest rates. The report was later downplayed.

The Fed's policy-making committee decided Tuesday that the Federal funds rate, an important benchmark, would remain at 5.50 per cent. Many traders expected the Fed to raise the rate as a pre-emptive strike against inflationary pressures in the economy.

# Ban on new US investments in Myanmar takes effect

BANGKOK, May 21: A ban on new US investments in Myanmar took effect Wednesday, just as a new crackdown by that nation's military rulers on pro-democracy activists was reported from Yangon, says AP.

President Clinton's executive order starting the sanctions was signed in Washington Tuesday.

The president announced the sanctions April 22 because of Myanmar's increased repression of its democracy movement. Clinton also accused Myanmar of being the world's leading producer of opium and heroin.

The order, however, appears to allow US companies to continue a wide range of business activities with Myanmar, including any actions they need to implement an existing contract or to exercise options signed before May 21.

The order also doesn't pro-

hibit US companies from entering into or financing Myanmar's contracts for the purchase or sale of goods, services or technology.

However, US companies cannot be paid for such goods or services with shares of ownership in or profits from any new investment, according to the order.

Because of huge investments in the oil and gas sector, companies from the United States rank fourth in Myanmar by country of origin.

Several US companies announced suspension of activities in Myanmar after last month's sanctions announcement.

The oil company Unocal, the biggest foreign investor in Myanmar, said it was giving up developing two new natural gas fields because of the sanctions.

Unocal is helping the Myanmar government drill for

oil and natural gas and build a 1.2 billion dollars pipeline from the Yada gas field in the Andaman Sea to a power plant in Thailand.

Its activities in Myanmar have made it a major target of political activists, especially on college campuses, who oppose the military regime and support the country's pro-democracy movement, led by Nobel Peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi.

Anheuser-Busch linked its withdrawal of business to the sanctions announcement. It said last month that it had suspended exports to Myanmar of Budweiser beer.

Other US companies apparently proceeded with Myanmar business deals even after the sanctions announcement.

Last Friday, InterDigital Communications Corp. signed a 250 million dollars digital wireless systems contract with Myanmar Posts and Telecom-

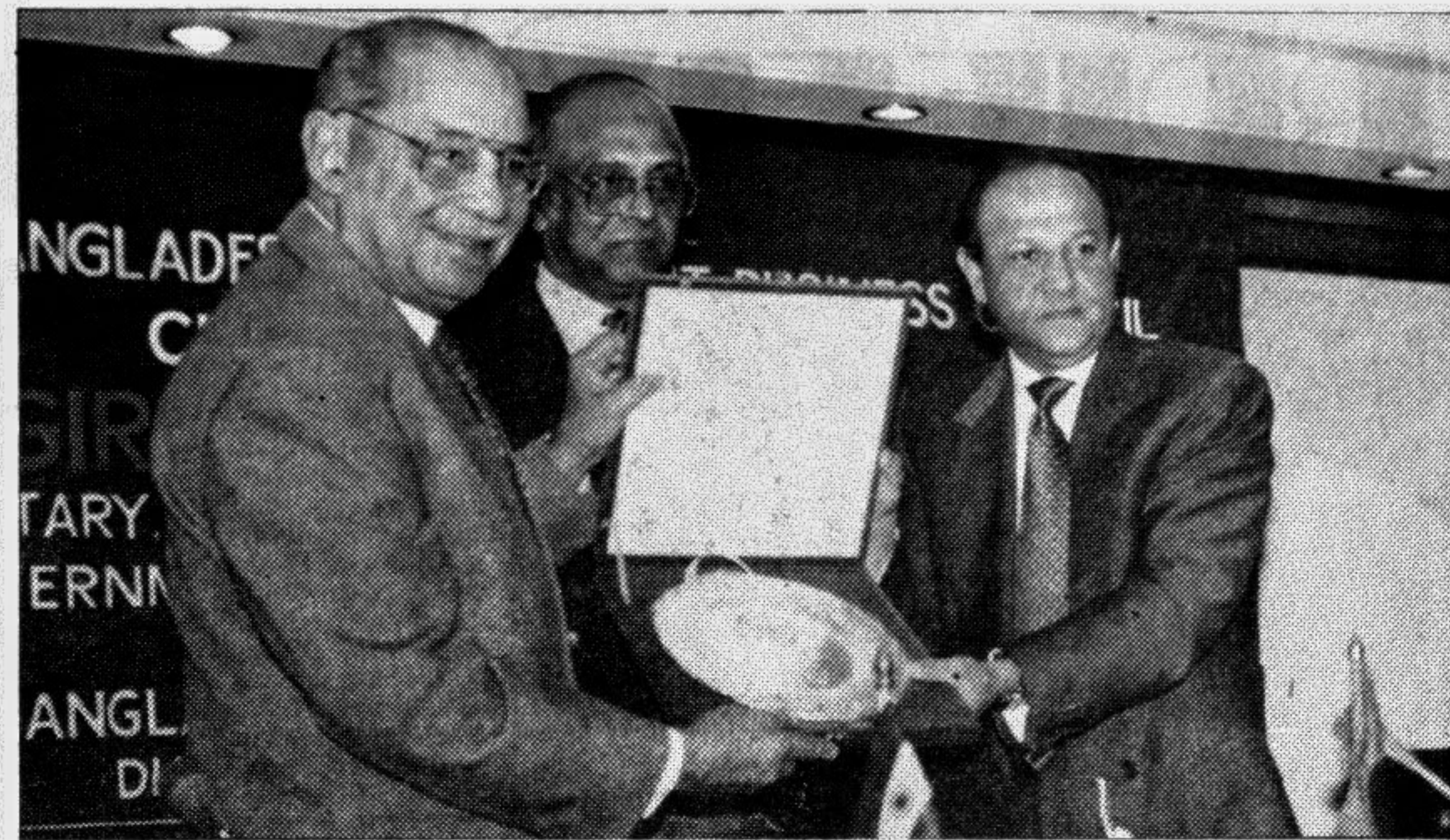
munications, the state telephone company.

The signing was not reported by Myanmar's state-owned press, and the US Embassy in Yangon was unaware of it.

The company specialises in developing technology for wireless telephone networks, usually used where it is not economical to install conventional land lines.

Friday's agreement called for installation of wireless phone networks and related equipment, as well as establishment of a joint venture in Myanmar with Myanmar Posts and Telecommunications for local manufacture of telephone equipment.

InterDigital Communications, based in King of Prussia, Pennsylvania, previously had signed a number of other contracts to install telephone lines in Myanmar.



Yussuf Abdullah Harun, President, Federation of Bangladesh Chambers of Commerce and Industry seen presenting a crest of FBCCI to Mumtaz Ahmed, Chairman, India-Bangladesh Joint Business Council and leader of the Indian delegation at a meeting at the chamber auditorium Tuesday. Sayed Alamgir Farouk Chowdhury, Secretary, Ministry of Commerce is also seen in the picture.

### Greenpeace blasts EU subsidies on energy industries

BRUSSELS, May 21: The environmental group Greenpeace Tuesday attacked European Union subsidies of coal and other fossil fuel industries, saying that support is inconsistent with the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions, reports AP.

In a report, Greenpeace said support by EU governments for fossil fuel and nuclear industries far exceeds their funding for clean, renewable energy.

"For every dollar spent on renewable energy, nine dollars are spent funding the problem," said Greenpeace spokeswoman Kirsty Hamilton.

Greenpeace found that direct subsidies by West European governments to fossil fuel and nuclear industries amounted to 15 billion dollars a year between 1990 and 1995.

By comparison, subsidies for renewable energies amounted to 1.5 billion dollars a year over the same period.

The Greenpeace report comes as EU energy ministers prepare to meet next week to discuss climate changes resulting from the use of fossil fuels.

### Iraq urges UN to speed up delivery of aid

BAGHDAD, May 21: Iraq urged the United Nations on Tuesday to speed up the delivery of humanitarian supplies under the "oil-for-food" accord and accused the United States of blocking the deal signed exactly a year ago, says AFP.

As the annual harvest started, meanwhile, Agriculture Minister Abdel Liah Hamid Mohammad Saleh said Iraq is hoping for a good cereal harvest in 1997.

But implementation of the May 20, 1996 oil-for-food deal is "getting worse and worse because of the position of the United States, which is trying to block it and slow it down," charged Iraq's UN Ambassador Nizar Hamdoun.

The ambassador, quoted by the official news agency INA, said the United States was blocking several Iraqi contracts "without justification or for unconvincing reasons."

In a message to UN Secretary General Kofi Annan, he urged the Security Council "to call on the United States to stop resorting to such actions which harm the Iraqi people and the credibility of the United Nations."

The accord, being implemented under strict UN supervision, was launched in December with the limited export of Iraqi crude to finance imports of food and medicine. The imports started on March 20.

Iraq, which has been under a UN embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, says it had submitted 570 import contracts for approval to the UN sanctions committee.

In mid-May, UN officials here said 167 contracts had so far been approved.

## HK, Singapore voted most competitive economies

GENEVA, May 21: Singapore and Hong Kong remain the world's most competitive economies whose strengths — ranging from infrastructure to education — are virtual "recipes" for growth, says a news report issued here Wednesday, says AFP.

The duo excel in nearly every major area that counts in terms of competitiveness, with institutions and policies in place that promote long-term growth, says the Global Competitiveness Report 1997, compiled by the World Economic Forum, a private foundation.

The United States, the world's largest economy, came in third, followed by Canada, New Zealand and Switzerland.

Four Asian nations rank among the top 10 in the survey with Taiwan and Malaysia at eight and ninth places respectively.

However, the report, which surveys 53 nations, said that a "modest slowdown" was underway for the Asian tigers. "Growth remains high by international standards, but the super-fast rates may be a thing of the past."

Thailand, which faces a large current account deficit and pressure on its currency,

dropped four places to 18th and the Philippines three to 34th place.

Among the big emerging markets Indonesia was the most competitive, leaping to 15th place this year from 30th.

China, the world's fastest growing economy, moved up to 29th position this year from 36th.

"The economic reforms now underway in these two goliath countries and in India and Brazil are the most important current global economic phenomena," says the report.

Competitiveness, defined as the ability of a country to achieve high rates of per capita gross domestic product growth, was judged on the basis of eight elements:

- Openness of an economy to international trade and finance
- Role of the government budget and regulation
- Development of financial markets
- Quality of infrastructure
- Quality of technology
- Quality of business management
- Labour market flexibility
- Quality of judicial and political institutions.

High achievers in Europe, according to the report, include the United Kingdom, which

made it to seventh place this year up from 15th, Norway, in 10th place, and the Netherlands, 12th in the rankings from 17th.

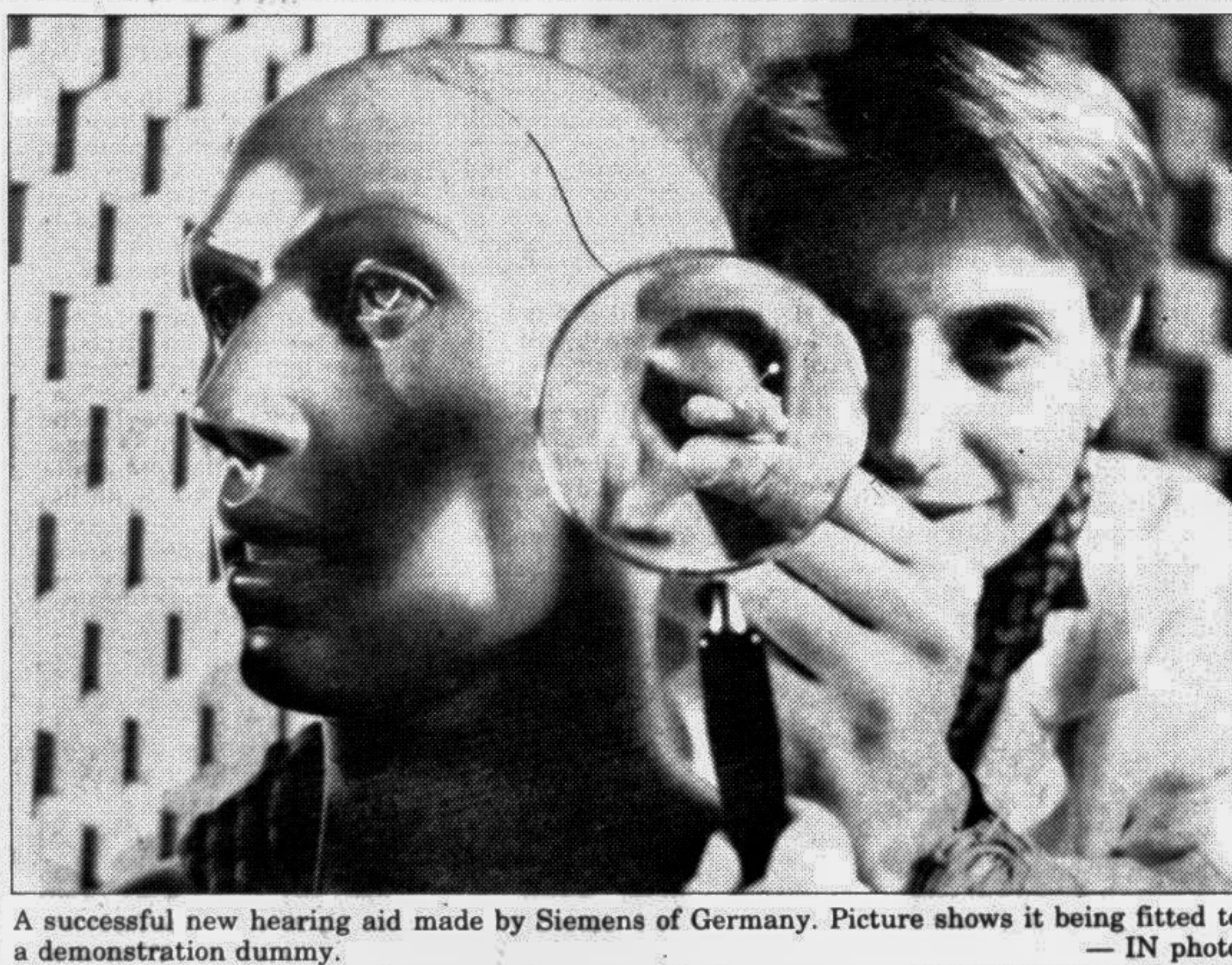
The laggards, bound by rigid labour markets and an extensive social welfare state include France, stuck in 23rd spot, Germany, slipping two places to 25th and Italy at 39th.

"Until the painful but essential reforms are met, these countries will continue to suffer from sluggish output growth and excessively high rates of unemployment, the reports says.

The survey ranked the United States the most competitive among large economies (populations over 10 million), saying it was the undisputed leader in technology and management. The country also scored high for its labour flexibility.

A survey on competitiveness compiled by the International Institute for Management Development in Lausanne — which has issued such rankings for a decade — gave the United States top competitive billing.

The results of IMD's exercise in which Singapore and Hong Kong ranked second and third respectively, were published May 17.



A successful new hearing aid made by Siemens of Germany. Picture shows it being fitted to a demonstration dummy.

## ECO states to go ahead with pipeline project

By Tariq Butt

ISLAMABAD: Cash-starved members of the Economic Cooperation Organisation (ECO), a group of Central Asian nations, have pledged to go ahead with multi-billion dollar projects aimed at improving transport and communication in the region and making flow of oil into neighbouring areas easier.

But there are serious hurdles in the way of the ambitious projects being completed with non-availability of funds and the continuing political turmoil in Afghanistan.

If the ECO projects are successfully carried out, India could benefit immensely from the proposed gas pipeline from Turkmenistan through Afghanistan and Pakistan, officials here say.

The ten-member group, which met in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan, last week, has plans to build road and rail links and lay oil and gas pipelines through the region. As none of the members would be able to afford the huge investment required for these projects, money would have to be raised from international donor agencies and the private sector.

Chaudhry Nisar Ali Khan, who represented Pakistan at the Ashgabat meeting before Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif

arrived after the South Asian summit in Male, said "We have told them (ECO members) that the proposed two billion dollar oil pipeline project through Turkmenistan, Afghanistan and Pakistan should either be scrapped or work should be started without further delay."

Another project involving Pakistan would be the laying of another pipeline from Turkmenistan, through Afghanistan and Pakistan to India.

Chaudhry Khan said ECO members had assured Pakistan that the pipeline would be used to provide gas to India "only if Pakistan agrees to it."

But even if Pakistan would agree to allow the project to go through, the political turmoil in Afghanistan would remain a serious stumbling block on most projects.

The Afghan areas earmarked for the laying of pipelines are presently under the control of the Taliban militia, which now holds almost two-third of the country. With the Taliban government yet to be recognised by UN members, including Pakistan, the issue of international guarantees in case of such projects remains unresolved.

Most ECO member nations still suspect Pakistan of having actively supported the Taliban. But a Pakistani official, who

accompanied Sharif to Ashgabat, said "Their misgivings and misconceptions about us were greatly removed during Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif's meetings with their leaders."

Pakistan said it has no favourites in the Afghan civil war and that it wants an early solution to the problem.

The Central Asian republics within ECO are strongly opposed to the Taliban as they fear the spilling over of the militia's brand of religious fundamentalism into their own territories. An indication of the hostility was the fact that no Taliban representative was invited to participate in the summit.

The participation at the Ashgabat meet of ousted Afghan president Burhanuddin Rabbani was not received well by Pakistan. Rabbani, who lived in Pakistan for over a decade and still has some family members living in this country, has hardly any say in his country now. He fled Afghanistan when the Taliban captured Kabul last year.

Rabbani's participation was, however, staunchly backed by Iran and some other Central Asian republics.

(Source: India Abroad News Service)

**সদর দপ্তর**  
**বাংলাদেশ কোর্ট গার্ড**  
ডিওএইচ এন্স, জোয়ার সাহারা  
বরিধায়া, ঢাকা-১২০৬

**দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১। বাংলাদেশ কোর্ট গার্ডের জন্য নিম্নলিখিত ক্রোপিং সামগ্রী ক্রয়ের নিমিত্তে দেশীয় মুদ্রায় প্রকৃত প্রকৃতকারক/ব্যবসায়ী/মজদুরদের নিকট হইতে সীলমোহিতভাবে খামে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাইতেছে।

ক্রমিক	দ্রব্যের নাম	পরিমাণ
ক।	এ্যাটচি কেস (চামড়ার তৈরি)	২০০টি
খ।	বেড কভার (সাদা)	২৬০টি
গ।	সুইমিং কপ্তিউম উন্নতমানের	২০০টি
ঘ।	শোর্টস জার্জি	১০০টি
ঙ।	রেইন কোট লেডী	২০০টি
চ।	ভতার কোট লেডী	২০০টি
ছ।	কিট ব্যাগ প্যাড লক 'ডি' ও তালসাহ	২৬০টি

২। প্রয়োজনীয় শর্তাবলীসহ নির্দিষ্ট মূল্যে (অফারকৃতমূল্য) দরপত্র অফিস চলাকালীন সময় (০৮০০-১২০০) ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত যে কোন কার্য দিবসে কোর্ট গার্ড সদর দপ্তর হইতে সংগ্রহ করা যাইবে। দরপত্র বিক্রয় মূল্য ১৪০০/০০। দরপত্র বিক্রয়ের সর্বশেষ তারিখ ২৯ মে '৯৭/দরপত্র খোলার তারিখ ৩১ মে '৯৭ বেলা ১২০০ ঘটিকা। দরপত্র গ্রহণের তারিখ ৩১ মে '৯৭ বেলা ১০.০০ ঘটিকা হইতে ১১.০০ ঘটিকা পর্যন্ত।

৩। একক মূল্যের পাশাপাশি মোট মূল্য উল্লেখ করিতে হইবে। প্রতি আইটেমের জন্য পৃথক পৃথক দরপত্র প্রদান করিতে হইবে। দরপত্র খোলার সময় অবশ্যই প্রতিটি আইটেমের নমুনা দাখিল করিতে হইবে অন্যথায় দরপত্র বাতিল বলিয়া গণ্য হইবে।

৪। কোন কারণ না দর্শাইয়া ডাইরেক্টর জেনারেল, বাংলাদেশ কোর্ট গার্ড যে কোন বা সকল দরপত্র বাতিল করিবার অধিকার সংরক্ষণ করেন।

এম এ জামান  
কমান্ডার বি এন্স  
ডিওএইচ এন্স  
পরিচালক (পেশা ও অর্থ)  
কোর্ট গার্ড সদর দপ্তর

DFP-12047-19/15  
G-1455

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Office of the Chief Engineer**  
Construction & Maintenance Management Unit (CMMU)  
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare  
House No. 94, Road No. 4, Block-B  
Banani Model Town, Dhaka

Memo No. MOHFW/CMMU/GOB-Rev/96/899 Dated: 14 May 1997

**Notice Inviting Bid**

1. Bids in sealed covers from C-category pre-qualified contractors (excluding defaulting contractors) of CMMU for revenue budget works are hereby invited for construction, repair, renovation, maintenance & extension works of different health facilities under GOB revenue budget. The works shall be implemented by CMMU, Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh through local consultants.

2. Interested contractors may purchase bid documents on production of applications in letterhead pad of their firms showing copy of pre-qualification letters, proof of submission of prequalification fee, attested photograph of intending bidder and a Bank Draft/Pay Order of Tk 1000/- (Taka one thousand) only (non-refundable) from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh in favour of Chief Engineer, CMMU. Bid documents will be available during office hours from 27.5.97 to 31.5.97 at the offices mentioned below:

(i) Office of the Executive Engineer, CMMU Dhaka/Khulna/Chittagong Division

(ii) Office of the Consultant, M/S Shaheedullah & Associates Ltd, 137, Jahanara Garden, Green Road, Dhaka.

(iii) M/S Prakaipa Upadeshta Ltd, House No 44, Road No. 16 (New), Dhanmondi, Dhaka.

3. Package list, completion time, list of defaulter contractors and other necessary information will be available at the offices mentioned above. Drawings for inspection will be available at the office of the consultant for inspection.

4. Earnest money @ 2.5% of quoted amount in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order from any scheduled bank of Bangladesh issued in favour of Chief Engineer, CMMU must be enclosed with the bid.

5. Bids in sealed covers will be received in the following manner:

i. In boxes kept in the offices mentioned under paragraph-2 up to 14:00 hrs on 26.9.97.

ii. Through post/courier service at bidder's risk in the office of the Chief Engineer, CMMU, House No. 94, Road No. 4, Block-B, Banani Model Town, Dhaka-1215. Bids will be received up to 26.9.97 till 14:00 hours only. Documents received after the above-mentioned time will be returned unopened.

6. Bid documents received in boxes/by post or by courier service will be opened in respective offices at 14:30 hours on the date of dropping in presence of bidders (if any).

7. Successful bidders will be communicated after evaluation of tender documents. Evaluation will be done centrally after closing together all tenders of a particular package dropped in different places. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all bids without having any obligation to communicate reasons thereof and this decision shall not be subject to appeal.

8. The works will be undertaken only if approval is obtained from the competent authority. If the work can not be undertaken for the above or for any other unavoidable circumstances, this office, shall, in no way, be obligated or liable.

9. The notice inviting bid will be also form a part of the contract and will be binding upon the bidder.

DFP-12062-19/5  
G-1456

Colonel Md Ahsan Habib  
Chief Engineer.

**Branch Shifted**

Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank Bodi branch has been shifted to the undermentioned address with effect from 3rd May '97.

Location of existing building	Location of new building
Dag No 10423 & 10828	Dag No 10404
Khatian No 281 & 281/1	Khatian No 5325
Mouza-Kaimari	Mouza-Kaimari
Union-Kaimari	Union-Kaimari
PS-Jaldhaka	PS- Jaldhaka
Dist-Nilphamari	Dist- Nilphamari

Esteemed clients, patrons & well-wishers are requested to carry on all their banking transactions & contacts at the new building.

**Rajshahi Krishi Unnayan Bank**  
Dedicated to the Service of Industrious Peasants of Northern Region.

DFP-11908-17/5 G-1458

**Office of the Executive Engineer**  
Distribution Division, PDB, Jhenidah

বিদ্যুৎ ব্যবহারে মিতব্যয়ী হোন

**Tender Notice**

1) Name of office : Distribution Division, Power Development Board, Jhenidah.

2) Name of work : 1) Work of supplying LT Cross Arm and Guy Assembly at the Divisional Store of Supply Division, PDB, Jhenidah.  
2) Work of supplying Duplex Wire for operation & maintenance work at 5 Power Supply Offices of Distribution Division, Jhenidah.

3) Eligibility of contractors : Tenders are invited from Power Development Board enlisted valid licence holder (electrical) contractors.

4) Estimated cost : A) Taka-73,325/00 (seventy-three thousand three hundred twenty-five) only.  
B) Taka-71,600/00 (Seventy-one thousand six hundred) only.

5) Price of tender : A) Taka-70/00 (seventy) non-refundable tender  
B) Taka-70/00 (seventy) non-refundable.

6) Place & date of tenders : 1) Chief Engineer, Distribution, Western Zone, PD Board, Khulna.  
2) May be purchased through Bank Draft from any scheduled bank in favour of the Superintendent Engineer, Operation & Maintenance Circle, PD Board, Jessore up to 08-6-97. And may be purchased from the Principal Branch of the local Agrani Bank subject to permission of the Executive Engineer, Distribution Division, PD Board, Jhenidah.

7) Date of receiving & opening tender : Tenders will be received up to 12:00 Noon of 9-06-97 and tender box will be opened on the same day at 12:30 PM.

8) It may be noted that if under any circumstance, the govt offices remain closed on the day, then selling & receiving will be done on the next day.

Biddut/Jana-1404(4) 96-97  
DFP-11593-13/5  
G-1461

Executive Engineer  
Distribution Division  
PDB, Jhenidah.

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
**Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board**  
Telejogajog Bhaban, 37/E, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka.

**Notice**

No. TRG. 17-1/97 Dated: 8-5-1997

Radio Amateur Service (General) Certificate Examination will be conducted by the Bangladesh Telegraph and Telephone Board, Dhaka according to the following schedule at Telecom Training Centre, Tejgaon, Dhaka.

Date	Time	Subject
18-6-1997	10:30-12:00	Fundamental Radio Regulation Electronics, Radio Communication Operating Procedure.
19-6-1997	10:30-12:00	Morse Code Reception and Electronic Component Test and Measurement.

A. Any interested Bangladeshi citizen having adequate knowledge in Amateur Radio Service eligible to apply for the examination.

B. Prescribed application forms, prospectus and syllabus may be obtained from the Training Branch, Room No-435 of Telejogajog Bhaban, 37/E, Eskaton Garden, Dhaka-1000.

C. Application shall accompany the following:  
1. Tk. 250/- (Two hundred and fifty) (i.e. examination fee Tk. 200/= and Prospectus/Syllabus and Application forms Tk. 50/=) only in the form of Bank Draft/Pay Order (Sonali/Agrani/Janata Bank) in favour of Accounts Officer (DDHQ), Telejogajog Bhaban, Dhaka.  
2. Attested copies of all academic certificates.  
3. Attested copies of all other 'Technical certificate' if any.  
4. Two copies of attested P/P size photos.  
5. Nationality certificate.

D. Medium of Examination — ENGLISH.

E. Application should be submitted on or before 3-6-1997 to the undersigned and Admit Card will be distributed in the examination hall.

DFP-11564-13/5  
G-1453

Divisional Engineer (Training)  
Phone No: 834247.