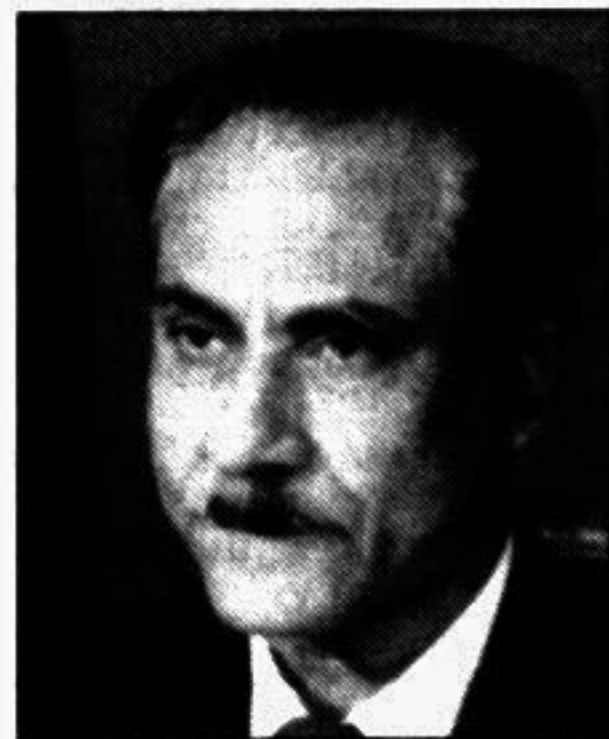


BOC BOC Bangladesh Limited Inauguration of Rugganj Manufacturing Site and Foundation Stone Laying of New Air Separation Plant.



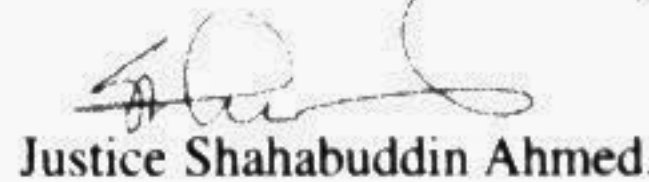

PRESIDENT
PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF BANGLADESH
DHAKA

Message

BOC Bangladesh Limited is a British multinational company operating in this region for many years. I am very happy to see that the Company is inaugurating its prime production site at Rugganj, Narayanganj.

I am aware of the efforts of the Company towards the industrial growth of the country. Its major products are directly linked to the promotion of industrial activities. It has invested substantially in our country in the past two years and that more significant investments are being planned for the near future. New investments made by an existing entrepreneur should prompt other potential investors to come to Bangladesh which the Government is earnestly pursuing.

I congratulate the management of the Company, its parent company The BOC Group plc, and the other shareholders for such active participation in building Bangladesh's economy.


Justice Shahabuddin Ahmed.

CORPORATE VISION

- WE SHALL BE RECOGNISED AS THE LEADER IN ALL THE BUSINESS SECTORS IN WHICH WE COMPETE IN BANGLADESH.
- OUR SUCCESS WILL BE BUILT ON OUR ABSOLUTE DEDICATION TO THE SATISFACTION OF OUR CUSTOMERS, THROUGH CONSTANT INNOVATION, OPERATIONAL EFFICIENCY, COST EFFECTIVENESS AND THE TALENTS OF OUR PEOPLE.
- WE SHALL ALWAYS APPLY HIGH STANDARDS OF INTEGRITY AND RESPONSIBILITY IN OUR ACTIVITIES.


প্রধানমন্ত্রী
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার

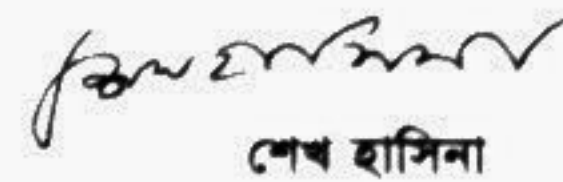
বাণী

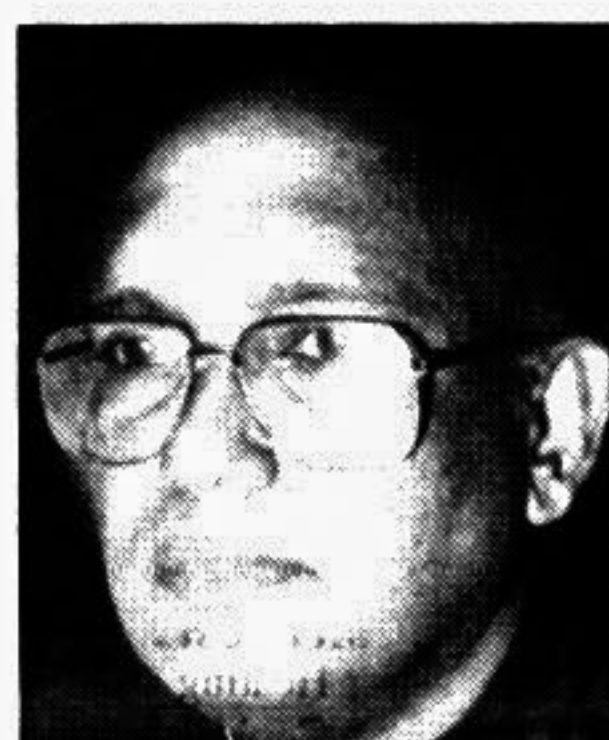


দেশে শিল্পের উন্নয়ন ও প্রগতির লক্ষ্যে বিগসি বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড-এর রূপগঞ্জ ফ্যাক্টরির আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন এবং নতুন এয়ার সেপারেশন প্লান্টের ভিত্তি প্রস্তর স্থাপন করা হচ্ছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত। শিল্প প্রতিষ্ঠান, ক্লিনিক, হাসপাতাল ও মেডিক্যাল কলেজসমূহে অক্সিজেন, নাইট্রোজেন, কার্বন-ডাই-অক্সাইড ও অর্গন সরবরাহ এবং ওয়েলডিং ও অন্যান্য সেবা কার্যক্রমের বাণিজ্যিক ব্যবহারের ক্ষেত্রে বিগসি'র ভূমিকা গুরুত্বপূর্ণ।

বিগসি'র নতুন প্রকল্পের আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন ও ভিত্তিপ্রস্তর স্থাপন দিবসে আমি এ প্রতিষ্ঠানের সার্বিক সাফল্য কামনা করি।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু
বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক


শেখ হাসিনা




মন্ত্রী
বাণিজ্য মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
ঢাকা

বাণী

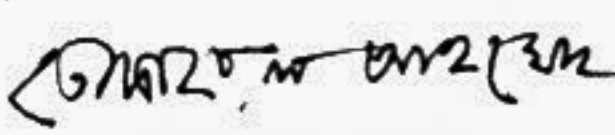
বি ও সি বাংলাদেশ লিঃ-এর রূপগঞ্জ ফ্যাক্টরীর আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধন এবং দৈনিক ৮০ টন গ্যাস উৎপাদন ক্ষমতাসম্পন্ন প্রকল্পের ভিত্তি প্রস্তর স্থাপন উপলক্ষে আমি বিগসি ব্যবস্থাপনা কর্তৃপক্ষকে জানাই আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন।

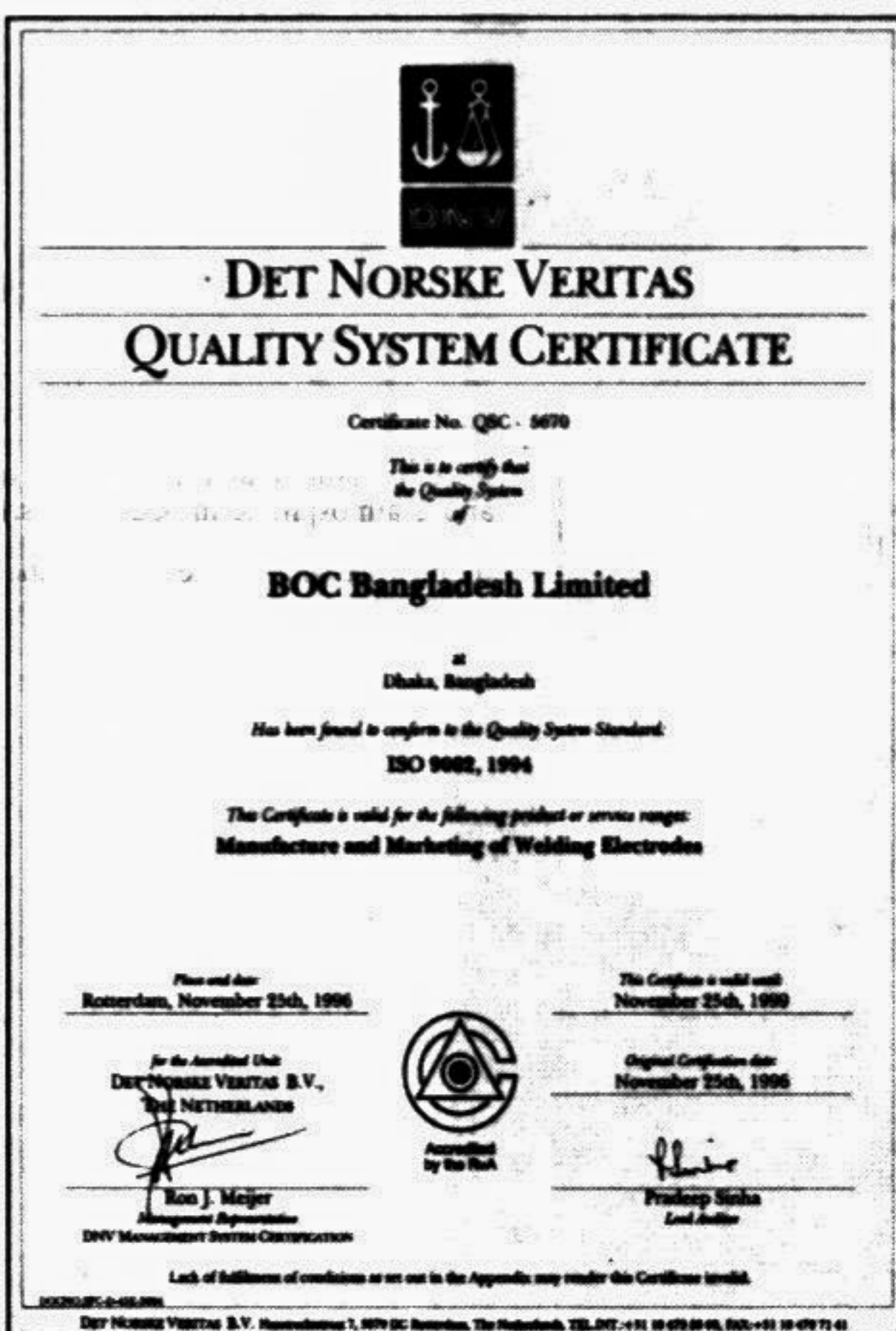
যে কোন দেশের উন্নয়নে শিল্পায়নের গুরুত্ব অপরিহার্য। বিশ্বায়ন ও উদারীকণের যুগে বাংলাদেশও আন্তর্জাতিক বিশ্বের সাথে সংগতি রেখে শিল্প ও বিনিয়োগ নীতিমালা প্রণয়ন করছে। বাণিজ্য ও বিনিয়োগ সম্প্রসারণ সরকার বেশ কিছু যুগান্তকারী পদক্ষেপ নিয়েছে।

দেশের শিল্পায়ন প্রক্রিয়াকে ত্বরান্বিত করতে সরকারের আন্তরিক প্রচেষ্টা ও উদ্যোগ দেশী-বিদেশী বিনিয়োগকারীদেরকে বাংলাদেশে বিনিয়োগে উৎসাহিত করতে সক্ষম হয়েছে। বাংলাদেশ এখন আর বিদেশীদের কাছে দুর্যোগ্য, ক্ষুধা ও দারিদ্রের দেশ হিসেবে নয় বরং বিনিয়োগের উৎকৃষ্ট স্থান হিসেবে বিবেচিত হচ্ছে। বিশ্বের খ্যাতিসম্পন্ন অনেক কোম্পানী এখন বাংলাদেশে বিনিয়োগ করছে এবং অনেক বিনিয়োগ প্রক্রিয়াধীন আছে।

আমি আশা করি বিগসি'র এ প্রকল্প অন্যান্য উদ্যোক্তাদের বিনিয়োগ আগ্রহকে আরও বাড়িয়ে তুলবে। সরকার উদ্যোক্তাদের আগ্রহকে বাস্তবে রূপ দিতে সর্বাঙ্গিক সহায়তা প্রদানে বদ্ধপরিকর।

আমি বিগসি'র উত্তরোত্তর প্রসার কামনা করি।


ডোঃ মোঃ মইনুল হোসেন




মন্ত্রী
বিদ্যুৎ, স্থানীয় ও খনিজ সম্পদ মন্ত্রণালয়
গণপ্রজাতন্ত্রী বাংলাদেশ সরকার
বাংলাদেশ সচিবালয়, ঢাকা

বাণী

বি ও সি বাংলাদেশ লিমিটেড রূপগঞ্জ শিল্প এলাকায় নতুনভাবে তাদের কার্যক্রম অধিকতর আধুনিক ও বিস্তৃতভাবে শুরু করেছে জেনে আমি আনন্দিত।

বি ও সি-র কর্মপর্যায়ের এই সম্প্রসারণ বর্তমান সরকারের উদার, গতিশীল ও যুগোপযোগী নীতিমালা এবং দেশের অনুরূপ বিনিয়োগ পরিবেশের প্রতি বিনিয়োগকারীদের অবস্থার প্রতিফলন বলে আমি মনে করি। আমি আশা করি অত্যাধুনিক লাগসই প্রযুক্তির ব্যবহার এবং জনকল্যানবুধী পরিকল্পনা নিয়ে বি ও সি আমাদের দেশের শিল্পায়ন ও অর্থনৈতিক উন্নয়নে সহায়ক ভূমিকা অব্যাহত রাখবে। আগামী ১১ ই ডিসেম্বর বি ও সি-ও নতুন শিল্প চত্বরে কারখানার আনুষ্ঠানিক উদ্বোধনের দিনে ৬০ কোটি টাকা ব্যয়ে ৮০ টন ক্ষমতা সম্পন্ন একটি নতুন এয়ার সেপারেশন প্লান্টের ভিত্তিপ্রস্তর স্থাপনের জন্যে আমি সংগঠিত সকলকে আন্তরিক অভিনন্দন জানাই এবং তাদের সাফল্য কামনা করি।

জয় বাংলা, জয় বঙ্গবন্ধু
বাংলাদেশ চিরজীবী হোক।




লেঃ জেনারেল মোহাম্মদ নূর উদ্দীন খান পিএসসি (অবঃ) এমপি

BOC BANGLADESH LIMITED

BOC Bangladesh Limited is both an old and a relatively new company. Old, because it has been present in what is now Bangladesh, in one form or another, since 1935. New, because it was registered under its own identity only in 1973. The Company began, after the independence of Bangladesh, with a modest turnover of a little over Tk 6 million. The turnover in 1997 was Tk 800 million.

BOC Bangladesh Limited started out as Bangladesh Oxygen Limited with 3 small Oxygen plants and 3 Dissolved Acetylene plants, one of each in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna. In addition, it had an operating contract to run the Oxygen plants of Chittagong Steel Mills (CSM), which still exists. For the manufacture of Welding Electrodes the Company had only one very small plant.

From its inception, the Company has remained the sole supplier of Medical Oxygen in the Country. In the mid 70's a Nitrous Oxide plant, still the only one in Bangladesh, was imported and installed in Dhaka to provide the Nation with this vital anaesthetic gas. Later in the decade a 50 years old Carbon Dioxide plant was bought refurbished and installed in Dhaka and this was the first in the country to produce Dry Ice. In the early 80's the first Liquid Gas plant was imported from New Zealand and again installed in Dhaka, where the demand for Oxygen was concentrated.

Shortly after that, came the first boom in ship-cutting and demand for Oxygen "went through the roof." The Company invested

immediately in additional compressing capacity for the surplus Oxygen at CSM, while simultaneously pursuing the Government to permit it to invest in new production capacity. Eventually the Company was permitted to import a 400 cubic meter per hour Air Separation Plant from Australia, capable of producing Liquid Oxygen, Nitrogen and for the first time in Bangladesh, Argon. This was installed in Chittagong, essentially to feed the ship cutting market on the Beach.

Meanwhile, the Welding Business of the Company was also growing fast and in the early 80's a state of the art RAM extruder was added to the production line, dramatically improving output and quality of Electrodes. The Company, in another innovative move, invested in a wire drawing machine for the Electrode Factory. A second RAM extruder was added in the late 80's to keep up with demand.

The Company went "public" in 1985 when the Government renounced its right shares in favour of the public.

The late 90's witnessed another change in the fortunes of the Company with deregulation and liberalisation of the economy. A site was specially purchased at Rugganj, near Dhaka, where the Company installed a 30 ton per day Air Separation plant, the largest in the Country. The US made plant produces Oxygen, Nitrogen and Argon and is technologically, the most advanced in the world. It came on stream in 1995.

At the same time, the Company also invested in a modern Integrated Welding Electrode Plant, made by the largest welding electrode manufacturers in the world, which was imported and installed at the same site in Rugganj. A technical collaboration arrangement was also made with the suppliers, and the plant went into

production in 1995. Welding business received ISO 9000 accreditation in the following year.

Bangladesh Oxygen Limited changed its name to BOC Bangladesh Limited in March 1995 in line with a world-wide programme of The BOC Group.

The Company has also embarked on the LPG Business. As a large part of Bangladesh do not have natural gas supply the potential market for LPG is quite large. This demand can only be catered by importing in bulk and bottling locally in addition to obtaining LPG from the Eastern Refinery.

The Company has been keen to invest in LPG business and has decided to set up a Storage, Bottling and Distribution facility at Bogra in northern part of Bangladesh where natural gas is not available. This project has already been taken up and is expected to start functioning soon. Under license from the Government, BOC will carry LPG in bulk from the Refinery for bottling and distribution in North Bengal. This arrangement will ensure regular supply of LPG to that part of the country. BOC Bangladesh is also planning to invest in setting up discharge terminal, storage tanks and bottling and distribution facilities for LPG, which will be imported.

RUGGANJ SITE

Setting up of the Rugganj manufacturing site by BOC Bangladesh Limited is a major decision taken by the Company since Independence. Although BOC Bangladesh has three other manufacturing sites in Dhaka, Chittagong and Khulna with small old-technology plants, a decision was taken to move to a completely new site, shake off all connections to old technology and install completely modern, hi-tech plants for the manufacture of all products. This is similar to the "Silicon Valley" in miniature. A new site, new plants, new technology will push the Company towards the next century, much easier, than trying to modernise the old sites with their tradition of old technology.

The site of about 10 acres was acquired in Rugganj and immediately thereafter two hi-tech plants were installed. One was a 30 ton per day liquid Oxygen & Nitrogen plant which even now, is the largest plant in Bangladesh, and another fully integrated Electrode Manufacturing Plant with a capacity of 4000 tons a year. The Company also decided to have their own power generation at the site so as to be independent of the vagaries of PDB. The decision is already showing fruitful results. Uninterrupted production and delivery through Bangladesh, avoiding the traffic congestion of the cities, has improved the Company's performance.

The Company has now embarked on further expansion. A second line of the Electrode Plant, doubling its capacity, has already been ordered and some of the

equipment has already been delivered. The second line should be ready within a few months. In addition another hi-tech Air Separation Plant with a capacity of 80 tons per day of Liquid Oxygen, Liquid Nitrogen and Argon with a large storage capacity has been ordered. This is, in addition to the existing 30 ton per day plant. This almost quadruples the production capacity for liquefied gases. This will easily meet the demand of the Country until 2010 and also enable growth of industries such as electronic, chip manufacturing and fish processing which depend on Liquid Nitrogen. In addition the Company is replacing their old plants for the manufacture of Acetylene, Carbon Dioxide & Dry Ice, Nitrous Oxide, mixed gases and Medical Gases with modern plants locating them once again in Rugganj. All of this will be complete by the year 2000. The total investment in Rugganj, in the near future will exceed Tk 1500 million. Rugganj, is a symbol, that the BOC Group has faith in the future of the Country, and this investment is probably the highest of the local multinationals, except in the energy sector.

BOC Bangladesh Ltd. was one of the first companies in the Country to make a significant investment in computerisation and information management technology. Extensive utilisation of such technology has enabled the Company to consistently improve the efficiency of its operations. It now has plans to elevate its systems to a level comparable with the best in the world, through investment in new business software and the hardware that is needed to drive this, by the year 2000. This will equip the Company to meet business imperatives and the growing challenges of the new millennium.

The most important investment, however, that BOC Bangladesh Ltd. has ever made, and will continue to make, is in its people. People are its priceless assets and their value can only be measured in the qualitative terms of the enviable accolades earned by the Company to date.

It is only fitting therefore that the formal inauguration of the site and laying of foundation stone of the 80 ton per day plant will be carried out by the Honourable President of Bangladesh in the presence of the Chairman of the BOC Group plc, the largest industrial gases Company in the world.

Their presence on this momentous occasion will encourage BOC Bangladesh to strive harder and play a significant role in the industrial development of the country.

