

## Taiwan mulling over more labour import

TAIPEI, Mar 16: Citing a labour shortage in the island's factories, Taiwan is weighing whether to expand the numbers of foreign workers that can be employed here, officials said Tuesday, reports AP.

Labour groups object, saying the policy only aids uncompetitive businesses by giving managers a bigger and cheaper pool of potential workers. The labour activists call for more efforts to find work for a rising number of unemployed Taiwanese.

The cabinet's Council of Labour Affairs is considering industry's call to implement a special quota for another 38,000 foreign factory workers to join the 271,000 foreign workers already in Taiwan, said Wu Chaun-ming, a council official responsible for foreign labour.

But a decision is still far off, and the council will keep sponsoring job fairs and other programs in hopes of filling those vacancies with unemployed Taiwanese, Wu said.

Taiwan began importing foreign labour early in the decade as wages rose and infrastructure projects created stronger demand for workers. Taiwan has retained the foreign workers for fear that if they go and wages rise, businesses will relocate overseas in places

where they can operate more cheaply.

Industry now suffers a shortfall of some 200,000 workers, mostly in the textiles and metals businesses where working conditions are hot and noisy and salaries low, said Ho Chun-yih, secretary general of the Chinese National Federation of Industries.

"These are not jobs that appeal to the demands of Taiwanese workers for comfort and safety," Ho said.

Failure to expand the number of foreign workers will force more industries to move to neighboring countries where labour and land prices are lower and fewer restrictions apply, he said.

But importing more foreign labour will only give businesses less incentive to upgrade and meet the demands of the changing labour market, countered labour activist Robert Kwo, secretary general of the Labour Front, one of Taiwan's largest independent labour organisations.

The Council of Labour Affairs, meanwhile, needs to do more to find jobs for the 265,000 people who were out of work in January, the last month for which figures are available, when the unemployment rate hit 2.76 per cent, Kwo said.

## US, EU appeal for WTO members' acceptance 'Free trade rules should allow for environmental protection'

GENEVA, Mar 16: The European Union and the United States appealed on Monday to other members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) to accept that the body's free trading rules should allow for protection of the environment, reports Reuters.

But at the start of a two-day WTO conference, they ran up against insistence from developing countries that poverty was the main cause of environmental degradation and that richer powers should do more to tackle that problem.

"Pressures for environmental protection are here to stay," EU Trade Commissioner Sir Leon Brittan told the gathering.

"It is much better to deal with them internationally than to allow pressures for unilateral protection to go unheeded and unanswered," he told the meeting, billed as a "high-level symposium" on links between trade and the environment.

In a message to the session, US President Bill Clinton urged delegates to "use this special opportunity to shape an international consensus behind policies that promote free trade and

open markets while protecting the global environment.

"We must do more to ensure that spirited economic competition among nations never becomes a race to the bottom. We should be levelling environmental protections up, not down."

"International trade rules have increasingly important implications for the environment," the message declared.

"They must be supportive of national policies that provide for high levels of environmental protection and effective enforcement."

Non-governmental "green" organisations, many of which have been invited to the deliberations, have long argued that WTO rules aimed at enforcing open markets often undermine national policies on nature conservation.

They point to recent decisions by WTO dispute panels that various US restrictions on imports from other countries whose production was not in line with US environmental laws did not conform to global free trade pacts.

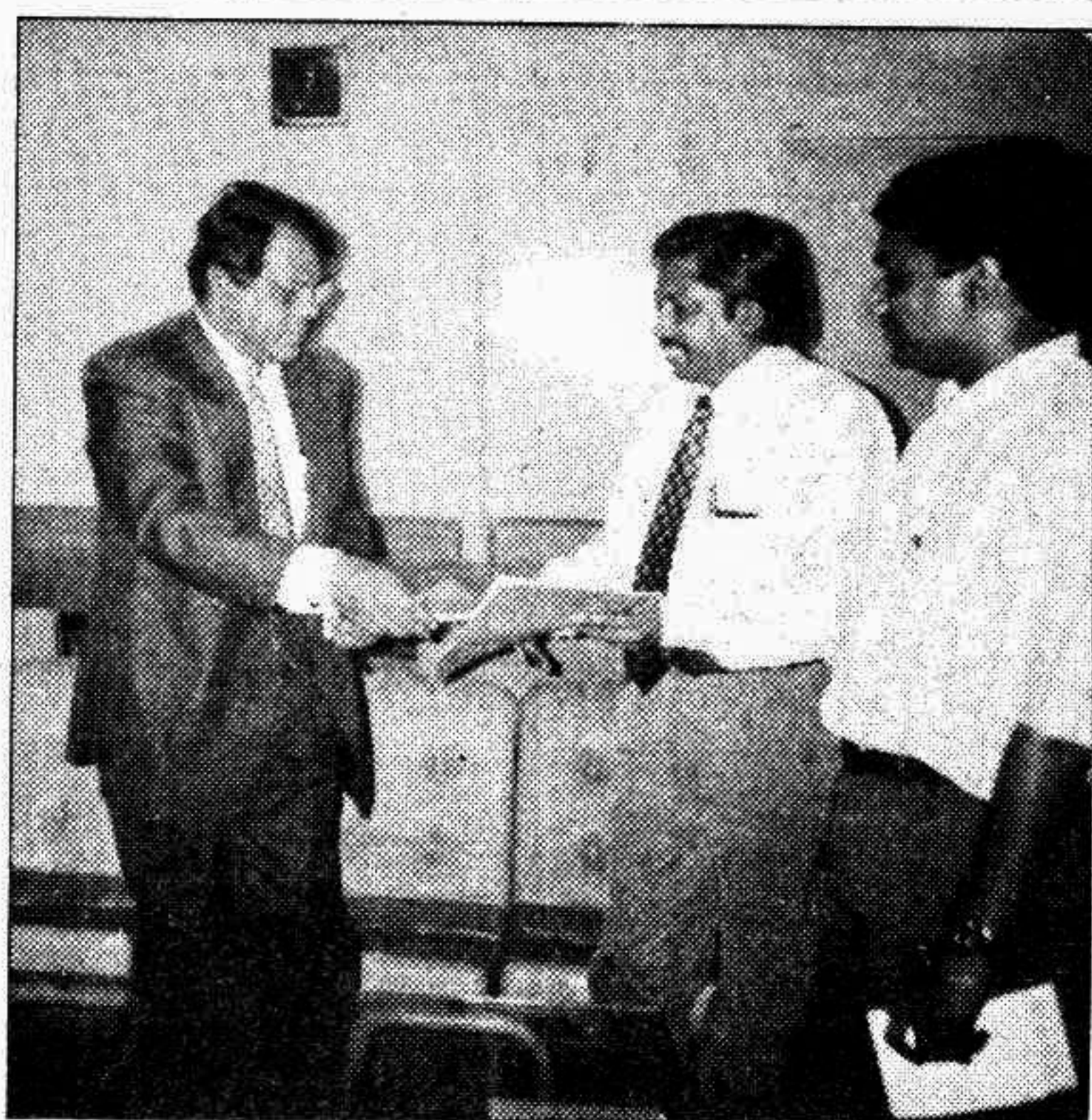
"The WTO has routinely ruled against environmental standards, calling them barriers to trade," said a statement issued at the conference by a coalition of mainly US-based "green" groups.

But many emerging economies regard the pressure for environmental standards to be incorporated into WTO regulations as a cover for creating a pretext to protect Western markets and jobs from goods from poorer countries.

Any effort to reopen WTO rules that prohibit discrimination against imports of goods because of the way they are produced could lead to imposing the domestic standards of one country on all others, one statement to the meeting said. Submitted by Pakistan.

Egypt, Honduras and the Dominican Republic, it said this would be "a recipe for protectionism and restriction of market access for developing countries' exports."

A separate statement from India said poverty was the biggest polluter.



Shaikh Wahiduzzaman, Secretary of EPB, and Iqbal Chowdhury, Chief Executive, MI Chowdhury & Co, exchange the documents of a signed agreement on auditing and evaluation of EPB Export Cell activities.

## Exchange Rates

American Express Bank Ltd foreign exchange rates (indicative) against the Taka to clients					
Currency	Selling TT & OD	Selling BC	Buying T.T Clean	Buying OD Sight Export Bill	Buying OD Transfer
US Dollar	48.7300	48.7700	48.3100	48.1570	48.0850
Pound Stg	792.106	792.756	780.007	77.7736	77.6573
Deutsche Mark	27.4143	27.4368	26.4123	26.3286	26.2892
Swiss Franc	33.2039	33.2311	32.6839	32.5803	32.5316
Japanese Yen	0.4144	0.4147	0.4070	0.4057	0.4051
Dutch Guilder	24.3306	24.3506	23.4413	23.3671	23.3321
Danish Krone	7.1630	7.1699	6.9954	6.9732	6.9629
Australian	31.0722	31.0958	29.8121	29.7177	29.6733
Belgian Franc	1.3291	1.3302	1.2806	1.2765	1.2746
Canadian \$	32.2459	32.2724	31.3254	31.2282	31.1795
French Franc	8.1740	8.1807	7.8792	7.8500	7.8395
Hong Kong \$	6.3005	6.3057	6.2217	6.2000	6.1927
Italian Lira	0.0277	0.0277	0.0267	0.0266	0.0266
Norway Kroner	6.2094	6.2135	6.1021	6.0827	6.0736
Singapore \$	28.0816	28.1051	27.7644	27.6764	27.6351
Saudi Rial	13.0416	13.0523	12.843	12.8026	12.7835
UAE Dirham	13.3040	13.3150	13.1167	13.0751	13.0556
Swedish Krona	5.9427	5.9478	5.8643	5.8457	5.8370
Omani Rial	13.4242	13.4353	13.2220	13.1901	13.1704
Kuwaiti Dinar	166.6553	166.7021	162.6805	162.2029	161.9753
Thai Baht	1.3093	1.3073	1.2922	1.2881	1.2862
Euro	53.6176	53.6616	51.6579	51.4943	51.4173

### Amex notes on Monday's market

The USD/BDT rates have stabilised in the 48.65/48.70 level over the past few days. The supply of USD remains steady and it continues to be supported at the 48.65 level from the market makers. The call market continues to be liquid which has kept the rates locked in the 6.5%-7.5% level over the last week. However, the most of the transactions were done at 7%.

The dollar was off lows against the yen in Tokyo on Tuesday, but remained under downward pressure on strong Nikkei shares as foreign investors were picking up appetites for Japanese assets. The dollar fell to as low as 117.28 yen, an intraday low in Tokyo since 115.60 yen on February 16, after finance minister Kiichi Miyazawa said the yen's overnight rise reflected economic fundamentals. But the impact of Miyazawa's comment was short-lived, with buying by Japanese investors amid rumours of bids from Japanese public investors bringing the dollar back to the 118 yen level at in earlier trade.

The euro was off lows against the dollar on Tuesday covering mainly by overseas operators, but remained weighed down on the surprise resignation of the entire European Commission. News that the entire 20-member European Commission resigned on Tuesday after a scathing independent report into fraud and cronyism at the EU institution spurred a sharp fall in the euro. It fell to as low as \$1.0813 from a morning high of 1.0924 on the EC news, losing almost all gains made after Germany's Finance Minister Oskar's abrupt resignation last Thursday. The euro also slipped against the yen as some Japanese investors rushed to raise hedge ratios on their euro-dominated investments.

Sterling was firm against euro, profiting from broad-based weakness in single currency sparked after European Commission resigned. Euro/stg fell to 66.87/94 pence vs 67.38/46 late in Europe on Monday.

At 08:27 GMT the majors were traded against US \$ at 117.80/85 JPY, 1.8039/46 DEM 1.4727/37 CHF, Euro at \$ 1.0840/43 and GBP at \$1.6187/97.

## Shipping Intelligence

### Chittagong port

Berth position and performance of vessels as on 16.3.99					
Berth No.	Name of vessels	Cargo	L port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
J/1	State of Nagaland	GTSP	DARB	Angelic	22/2
J/2	Vitality Kruchina	Rice (P)	Viza	SMSL	22/2
J/3	Hill Plenty	Rice(G)	Banc	Ancient	15/2
J/4	Grigory Kovalchuk	Urea	-	USTC	R/A
J/5	Stefan Gyts	QI Mum	Cross	1/3	20/3
J/6	Sea Balo	R-Seed P	Kern	Litmond	4/3
J/7	San Pablo (Roro/24)	Vehi	Sing	JF	13/3
J/8	Banglar Urmi	Rice(G)	-	BSC	R/A
J/9	Amrita-VII	QI Yang	Everett	10/3	17/3
J/10	Maria-C	Rice(G)	Viza	AMSBL	1/3
J/11	Golden D	Wheat(G)	K Dia	Loans	R/A
J/12	QC Mallard	Cont Sing	QCSL	9/3	16/3
J/13	Kota Singa	Cont Sing	Pil (BD)	11/3	18/3
CCT/1	QC Pintall	Cont Sing	QCSL	14/3	16/3
CCT/2	Sin Hai	Cont Sing	RSL	10/3	18/3
CCT/3	Kota Bajaraya	Cont Sing	Pil (BD)	5/3	16/3
RM/14	Undok-1	Cement	IND	USTC	5/3
RM/15	Albatross-III	Rice(P)	Kand	SMSL	16/2
CSJ	Sun Shine (48)	Rice (P/G)	Col	Sunshine	10/3
TSP	Seagull Fortune	Wheat(G)	K Dia	Frank	R/A
CSJ	Sun Shine (48)	Rice (P/G)	Col	Sunshine	10/3
RM/4	Banglar Maya	Cement	Indo	USTC	8/3
RM/5	Clarity	Repair	WKO	MSTPL	13/3
DOJ	Nidia	HSD/MS	Sing	MSTPL	12/3
sDD	Banglar Robi	Recapir	-	BSC	R/A
DD/1/1	Tanary Star	IDLE	Para	PSAL	-
RM/8	Sea World	Repair	-	CCNL	R/A
RM/9	Banglar Gourab	Repair	-	BSC	R/A
P/Jetty	Tug Ocean Silver-8	-	-	ILAPSL	R/A

### Vessels due at outer anchorage

Name of vessels	Date of arrival	L port call	Local agent	Cargo	Loading port
Banglar Kakoli (48)	11/3	16/3	-	BSC	QI
Bi Ryu Gang	19/3	-	USTC	Cement	-
Orion Glory	16/3	-	Kaus	Prog	QI
Osong San	17/3	-	Indo	SSTI	Cement
Haci Resti Kalkavan	17/3	-	PSAL	Cement	-
Buxmoon (Cont) 8/3	17/3	-	Sing	QCSL	Cont
Banglar Moni (Cont) 28/2	17/3	-	-	BSC	Cont
Dewun-1	17/3	-	-	AML	Rice(P)
Bunga Mas Enam (Cont) 8/3	17/3	-	P Kel	EOSL	Cont(Sing P.Kel)
Dunya Ma	18/3	-	Cal	MSA	Wheat(P/G)
Hadina	18/3	-	-	MHCSL	Rice(G)
Meghna (Cont) 2/3	18/3	-	Sing	BD Ship	Cont
Banglar Shikha (Cont) 7/3	18/3	-	Sing	BSC	Cont
Le Ping Ling	19/3	-	-	MBL	Cement
Ultima (Cont) 11/3	18/3	-	Col	QCSL	Cont
Banga Biraj (Cont) 28/2	21/3	-	Sing	BD Ship	Cont
QC Teal (Cont) 3/3	19/3	-	Sing	QCSL	Cont
State of Gujarat	19/3	-	-	Oil	QI
Aealia (Cont) 11/3	19/3	-	Sing	RSL	Cont
Surabaya Express (48) 11/3	19/3	-	Bang	MBL	GI (ST. Coil)
Vishva Parag (48)	19/3	-	-	SSLLGI (ST. Billets)	Cont
Seacross	19/3	-	Okri	JF	Scraping
Ingenut (Cont) 17/1	23/3	-	Sing	RSL	Cont
Makassar Express (Cont) 10/3	20/3	-	Sing	Bandhi	Cont
Xpress Resolve (Cont) 14/3	20/3	-	Sing	RSL	Cont
Budi Teguh (Cont) 15/3	20/3	-	Sing	RSL	Cont
Georgis	21/3	-	Vanc	OWSL	Wheat (G)
Dragon Brani (Cont) 14/3	21/3	-	Sing	NOL	Cont
Kota Naga (Cont) 11/3	21/3	-	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont
Sea Falcon	21/3	-	-	EOSL	Rice
Eka Lestari	21/3	-	-	PSAL	C Clinker
Sea Amchita	22/3	-	-	Prog	QI
Kota Cahaya (Cont) 15/3	24/3	-	Sing	Pil (BD)	Cont
Dragon Kaldamanti (Cont)	15/3	-	Sing	NOL	Cont
Bharatendu (48) 14/3	26/3	-	-	SSLL	GI(St. Coil)
Bunga Biro (Cont) 15/3	27/3	-	Sing	BD Ship	Cont
Tanker due	-	-	-	-	-
Pranedyia	16/3	-	Sing	CTPL	F.OIL
Hektor	15/3	-	Thai	MBL	Ammonia

### Vessels at Kutubdia

Name of vessels	Cargo	L Port call	Local agent	Date of arrival
Seabulk Command	-	-	IBS	R/A (25/10)

### Vessels at outer anchorage

Ready on

Sea Coral Rice(G) Kand USTC 17/2

Conny CDSO R Union Seacome 19/2

Xing Ye Rice (G) Hald MHCSL 20/2

Chettind Tradition Wheat (G) P Side LSC 18/2

Pacific Carrier Wheat(G) Suez ANCL 21/1

You Yue Rice (G) Kand USTC 28/2

Grania CDSO Darb TSL 28/2

Sarah-i Rice (P) Kara ANCL 7/3

United Wheat (G) Darb ANCL 3/3

ESCO Virgo QI Bang Rainbow 2/3

ESCO Argo (48) QI Jaka Prog 11/3

Abuja (Cont) Cont Col Baridhi 11/3

Nand Rati Wheat (P) Sing AASS 10/3

AA Venture Rice(P) Kara CLA 11/3

Ocean Reyna QI Yang Everett 12/3

Triumph Hong Kong (48) QI Sing RML 14/3

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

**দি ইনস্টিটিউট অব ব্যাংকার্স, বাংলাদেশ**

জাতীয় স্টাউট ভবন, নবম তলা  
৭০/১, ইনার সার্কুলার রোড, কাকরাইল, ঢাকা-১০০০

তারিখ: ১৬-৩-১৯৯৯ইং

**পরীক্ষা বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

ইনস্টিটিউটের পরবর্তী ব্যাংকিং ডিপ্লোমা পরীক্ষা (১ম ও ২য় পর্ব) আগামী ৪-৬-১৯৯৯ইং থেকে দেশের সকল জেলা সদরে অনুষ্ঠিত হবে। ইচ্ছুক প্রার্থীগণ পরীক্ষার এন্ট্রি ফরম জমা দেয়ার বিস্তারিত তথ্যাদি ইনস্টিটিউটের কার্যালয়, সোনালী ব্যাংকের আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়/প্রিন্সিপাল অফিস/বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের প্রধান কার্যালয়সহ চট্টগ্রাম, সিলেট, বগুড়া, রাজশাহী ও খুলনা থেকে সংগ্রহ করতে পারবেন।

বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের প্রার্থী ব্যতীত অন্যান্য ব্যাংক ও অর্থলগ্নীকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রার্থীগণ তাদের স্ব স্ব ব্যাংক ও অর্থলগ্নীকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রধান কার্যালয়ের কর্মচারী বিভাগ/স্থানীয় কার্যালয়/প্রিন্সিপাল অফিস/আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয়ে প্রয়োজনীয় ফিসসহ পরীক্ষার এন্ট্রি ফরম জমা দিবেন। বাংলাদেশ ব্যাংকের প্রার্থীগণ তাদের যথাযথ কর্তৃপক্ষের নিকট পরীক্ষার ফিসসহ এন্ট্রি ফরম জমা দিবেন, তবে যে সকল ব্যাংক/অর্থলগ্নীকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রিন্সিপাল অফিস/আঞ্চলিক কার্যালয় নেই সে সকল ব্যাংক/অর্থলগ্নীকারী প্রতিষ্ঠানের প্রার্থীগণ তাদের শাখা প্রধানের নিকট প্রয়োজনীয় ফিসসহ এন্ট্রি ফরম জমা দিবেন। কোন অবস্থাতেই ব্যক্তিগত পর্যায়ে প্রার্থীদের নিকট থেকে ইনস্টিটিউট সরাসরি ফরম গ্রহণ করবে না।

বর্তমান ফিসসহ এন্ট্রি ফরম জমা দেয়ার শেষ তারিখ ২১-৪-১৯৯৯ইং এবং বিলম্ব ফিসসহ ২৮-৪-১৯৯৯ইং। পরীক্ষার ফিসঃ ১ম পর্ব টাকা ১৫০/- ও ২য় পর্ব টাকা ২০০/-, বিলম্ব ফিসঃ ১ম পর্ব টাকা ১০/- ও ২য় পর্ব টাকা ১০/- মাত্র। সদস্য ফিস টাকা ৪০/- ও ভর্তি ফিস টাকা ৬০/- (শুধু নতুন সদস্যদের জন্য)। বিষয়ওয়ারী পাস ফেলের সংবাদ সদস্যদের প্রেরণ বাবদ ডাক খরচ টাকা ১২/-।

সে সমস্ত পরীক্ষার্থী ৩১শে ডিসেম্বর, ১৯৯৮ এর পূর্বে সদস্য হয়েছেন অথচ সদস্য ফিস বকেয়া আছে তারা নিম্নলিখিত হারে সদস্য ফিস পরিশোধ করবেনঃ

সন	বার্ষিক সদস্য চাঁদার হার
১৯৭৩ থেকে ১৯৮০ইং পর্যন্ত	টাকা ৫/- হারে।
১৯৮১ থেকে ১৯৮৪ইং পর্যন্ত	টাকা ১০/- হারে।
১৯৮৫ইং --	টাকা ১৫/- হারে।
১৯৮৬ থেকে ১৯৮৯ইং পর্যন্ত	টাকা ২০/- হারে।
১৯৯০ইং --	টাকা ৩০/- হারে।
১৯৯১ থেকে ১৯৯৯ইং পর্যন্ত	টাকা ৪০/- হারে।

জিডি-২০৮

সহকারী সচিব

**BGD/96/018-Strengthening the Election Commission for Improvement in the Electoral Process**

**VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

**ELECTION MANUAL EDITOR**  
Duration : 3 Months  
Station : Project Office, Dhaka.

Election Commission, Bangladesh intends to compile, edit and prepare manuals/handbooks on different elections for use by the Returning Officers, Assistant Returning Officers, Presiding Officers, Assistant Presiding Officers and Polling Officers and a manual/handbook on voter registration for use by the Registration Officers, Assistant Registration Officers and other personnel employed in the field.

For this purpose Election Commission Secretariat invites application for a Short-term Consultancy from qualified candidates.

The terms of reference may be obtained through fax (812352) or by personal contact from Janab. Md. Badruddoza Sarker, Junior National Consultant (Telephone : 810151) at the above mentioned project office.

Qualification : The incumbent will have a post-graduate qualification with five or more years of working experience relating to electoral process which will include dealing with various electoral laws, rules etc. Knowledge of drafting/editing of legal matters will be considered as an advantage.

**APPLICATIONS (Please read carefully)**  
Applications should be marked confidential and :

- Indicate clearly the position being applied for;
- Include a short statement explaining the applicant's suitability for the position;
- Include two copies of the applicant's Curriculum vitae.

Note : No photographs, references, certificates of professional papers should be submitted at this time. Applications should be sent to :

The Manager  
**HUMAN RESOURCES**  
United Nations Development programme (ref : BGD/96/018)  
House 60, Road 11/A, Dhanmondi R/A, Dhaka-1205.

Application should be received within 14 days from the date of advertisement. Only shortlisted candidates will be contacted.

Any attempt to influence the process of selection, will disqualify the candidacy.  
Remuneration packages will be based on current UNDP consultancy remuneration scale.

**WOMEN ARE ESPECIALLY ENCOURAGED TO APPLY.**

**Project Management Organisation**  
Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong

**International Tender Notice**

No: COS/ERC/MLR/CASH Dated: 14.3.99

Sealed tenders are invited from reputed suppliers/manufacturers for supply of 300,000 Nos Elastic Rail Clip for Bangladesh Railway to be financed from the Cash Foreign Exchange Resource of Government of Bangladesh.

2. A complete set of tender documents may be purchased by tenderers on the submission of a written application and upon payment of non-refundable sum of Tk 750.00 (Taka seven hundred fifty) only during office hours (9:00 AM- 5:00 PM) on all working-days from 21.3.1999 to 5.5.1999 from the office of the Controller of Stores/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Central Railway Building, Chittagong as well as from the Office of the Executive Engineer/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Kamalapur, Dhaka.

3. Tenders must be delivered to the office of the Controller of Stores/Project, Bangladesh Railway, Central Railway Building, Chittagong by 11:00 hrs on 6.5.1999. It will be opened at the same office & on the same date at 11:30 hrs in the presence of tenderers representatives who choose to attend.

**M Abdullah**  
Controller of Stores/Project  
Bangladesh Railway, Chittagong  
Phone: 880-31-725797

GD-203

**সড়ক ও জনপথ অধিদপ্তরের**  
**দরপত্র আহ্বানের বিজ্ঞপ্তি**

১। দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি নম্বর : ১৯৯৮-৯৯ ইং সনের ৮৯  
বি-আর-ডি।

২। কাজের নাম : ১৯৯৮-৯৯ ইং সনের বরিশাল সড়ক  
বিভাগধীন বরিশাল-ডোলা-লক্ষীপুর  
সড়কের ৮ম কিঃ মিটারে নির্মিত  
কালভার্টের এগ্রেটে মার্টিং কাজ।