

SANYO
Japan
Colour TV
Transfin Trading Ltd.
Tel : 815307-10, Fax : 813062
Installation Facility Available

The Daily Star BUSINESS

SANYO
Japan
Air Conditioner
Installation Facility Available
Transfin Trading Ltd.
Tel : 815307-10, Fax : 813062

DHAKA, MONDAY, APRIL 12, 1999

Sheba Telecom installs network in 26 upazillas

Sheba Telecom (Pvt) Ltd has installed rural telecommunication network in 26 upazillas of Bangladesh and they have plan to cover 195 upazillas in future, reports BSS.

It was disclosed when Ahmed Ferdous Ismail, Managing Director of the company, met Sirajuddin Ahmed, Executive Chairman of the Board of Investment (BOI) at his office in city yesterday, said a press release.

The company has also set up global system for mobile communication (GSM) in Dhaka and is providing the service to 15,000 subscribers. It will install an additional capacity for 7,000 subscribers by May this year.

Sheba Telecom is a joint venture company with a 51 per cent Malaysian investment.

Indian govt to help exporters overcome hurdles

BANGALORE, India, Apr 11: Indian Commerce Minister Ramakrishna Hegde yesterday said the country will offer incentives to its exporters to overcome hurdles such as anti-dumping duties imposed by importing countries, says AFP.

The commerce ministry is thinking of finding a way by which our exporters can be helped to overcome hurdles like anti-dumping duties and anti-subsidy duties imposed by some importing countries," Hegde told a meeting of trade and industry in the southern city.

"We will find a way of doing this without being inconsistent with any of the rules of the World Trade Organisation (WTO)," the minister said.

"We do not want the developed countries to find some excuse or the other and say that this is not consistent with WTO rules."

Hegde said the government had constituted a panel to examine how this could be done as such duties were a great hindrance to India's exports.

India recorded poor export growth during 1998/99 (April-March) with merchandise export falling by 1.98 per cent to 27.16 billion dollars between April and January 1998/99.

Hegde also said that a government fund to strengthen and promote the brand image of Indian products abroad would be increased to 5 billion rupees (117.23 million dollars) in the next 12 months, reports BSS.

The interest earned from this fund will be used to strengthen our brands," Hegde said. "The products that will be able to access this fund will be decided by a panel."

BRAC chief says

Govt-NGO health sector cooperation working well

The developing countries eroneously tried to copy the industrialised world in designing their health system and ignored the very groundwork which the developed world did during the first half of the century.

This was stated by Fazle Hasan Abed, founder and executive director of BRAC in his 'PD Agarwal Memorial Lecture' at the Indian Institute of Health Management Research at Jaipur on Saturday, says a press release.

Abed said that during the first half of the century the western world along with their programmes for economic development and education gave equal priorities to such essential health-related factors like pure drinking water, improved sewerage, sanitation, immunization and birth control till those became accepted social practices.

In the second half, the emphasis was shifted from public health to curative care with sophisticated hospitals and medical institutions, he said.

But he regretted that the developing countries bypassed the community-based health programmes and preventive care and gave priorities to curative measures like construction of hospitals, training of physicians whereas only 12 per cent of the population has access to such facilities in countries like Bangladesh.

Abed pointed out that Bangladesh experience has shown that government-NGO partnership worked very well in such sectors as family planning, immunization and education covering a wider number of beneficiaries.

He said that BRAC's decade-long door-to-door oral-rehydration therapy programme had substantially reduced the child mortality rate.

Improvement in health conditions is an important prerequisite for eradication of poverty and development in its turn has a positive impact on health, he said.

It has been proved that the women participating in BRAC's income-generating activities have better records of having their children immunized, using sanitary latrines and accepting family planning, Abed said.

DCCI budget proposal to govt

Withdraw provision of tax on export income

The Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) has proposed to the government to withdraw the provision of tax on export income, reports UNB.

Export income should be free from any tax to lure more investment to export-oriented industries, DCCI said in its suggestions to the government ahead of the budget for the next fiscal.

The Chamber said that for increased investment to achieve high growth rate, the government should elevate the rate of tax credit to 30 per cent from the current 15 per cent.

Suggesting withdrawal of tax at source on imports, it said that by raising the production cost, such a tax is decreasing the competitive edge of the Bangladeshi products in the international market.

The DCCI demanded enhancing the limit of tax-free income to Tk 100,000 from Tk 60,000 saying that due to the present level of inflation, the yearly living cost of a middle class or lower middle class person should not be kept below Tk 60,000.

Considering the living cost and the inflation, the limit of tax-free income should be increased to Tk 100,000."

Urging reduction of the rate of corporate tax, it said that the rate should be fixed at 25 per cent irrespective of publicly and non-publicly traded companies.

The Chamber said that reduction of the corporate tax would not only increase investment but would also act as an encouragement to new entrepreneurs in establishing new ventures.

Demanding imposition of income tax on government officials, it said law should be exercised equally on every citizen.

The amount of income tax to be collected from government officials should be incorporated in the budget.

The DCCI also demanded withdrawal of the discretionary power of the tax officials.

To extend the tax base further, bring transparency in the tax administration, and to encourage tax-payers to pay taxes, the discretionary power of the tax official must be removed, it said.

The chamber also suggested the National Board of Revenue (NBR) to increase the annual per-quisite of the non-government officials to Tk 100,000 from a minimum of Tk 72,000 or 50 per cent of their annual

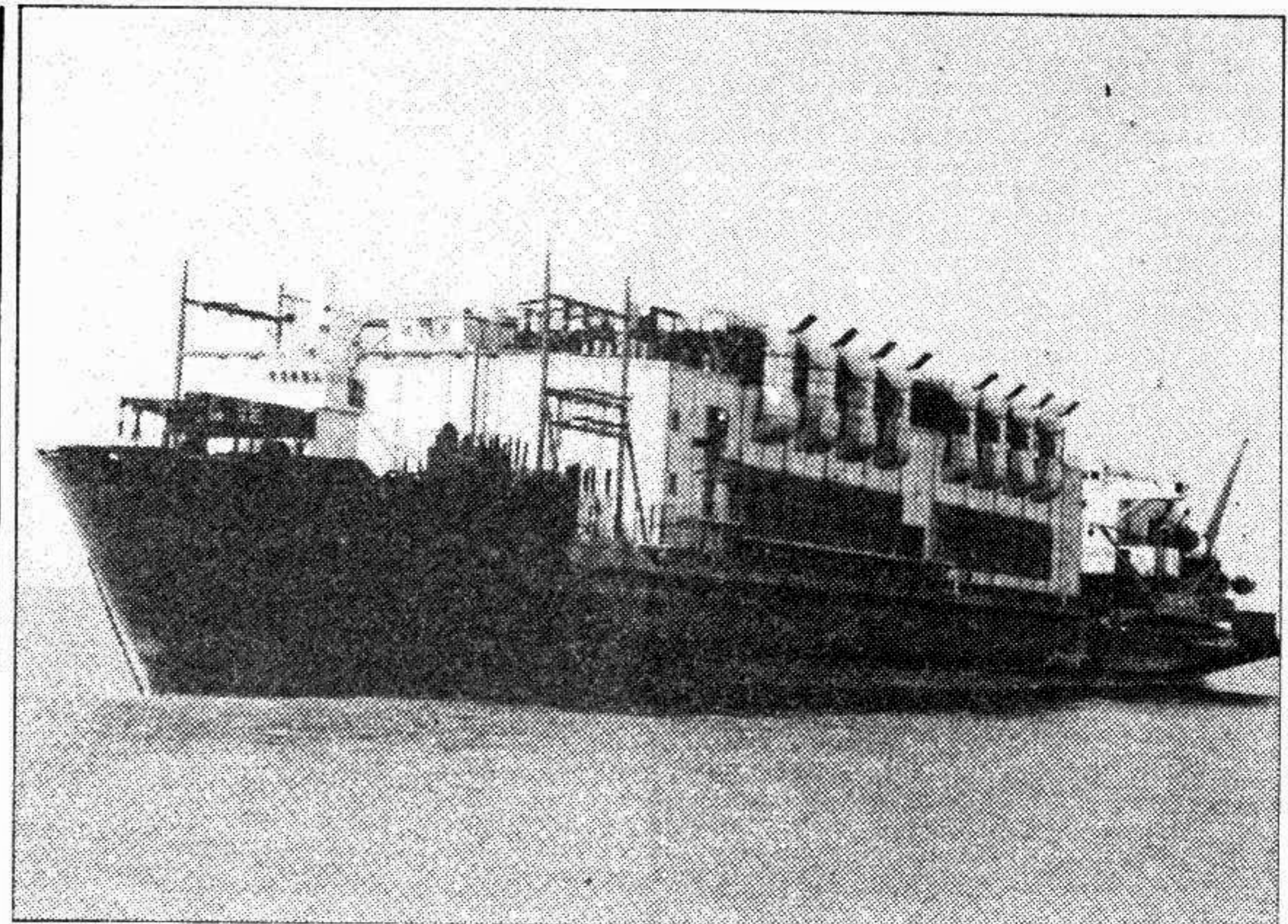
income. "The step will reduce tax burden on companies and increase productivity of the non-government officials."

Demanding withdrawal of the provision of collecting advance income tax at source on exports, the DCCI said it would encourage small exporters to help increase export income of the country.

While calling for keeping dividend income out of tax purview, it said that it was necessary to increase private savings and investment.

The DCCI also suggested for making the remittance of wage earners free of income tax to encourage them into sending increased amount of remittance.

It further suggested that foreign investments should be offered tax holiday for five years.



Haripur Commodore 1, a 110-megawatt barge-mounted power plant, arrived at Kutubdia Thursday and is now heading towards Haripur in Narayanganj, where it would be located. The plant will be operated by NEPC Consortium Power Ltd.

Jute investors' forum begins Apr 15

A three-day "jute investors' forum" will be held in the city this week to give the country's jute and jute industry a new lease of life, organisers said yesterday, reports BSS.

A total of 11 projects on jute-based industries, already found economically feasible, will be presented to the investors and industry representatives from the major jute and jute goods producing countries including Bangladesh, India, China, Thailand, Nepal, Pakistan and Egypt in the forum.

It will begin on April 15 at the International Jute Organisation's (IJO) headquarters here.

The forum will be jointly organised by the Ministry of Jute, Board of Investment (BOI), the delegation of the European Commission in Bangladesh, Dhaka Chamber of Commerce and Industry (DCCI) and the IJO.

Highlighting the objectives of the projects Dr R Mandal, Senior Officer (Industry) of the IJO, told BSS yesterday the project functions will range from spinning of jute blended with cotton and other fibres to making of jute-made wood substitutes like jute furniture including door frame, window frame and floor mates.

The projects will also include jute made cheaper blankets and roofing materials which can be used as a much cheaper alternative to the corrugated iron sheets, he said.

Dr Mandal said the forum will project a host of hitherto unknown diversified jute-based products here to the local investors. It will help the local jute-based industries to come out of the current crises by giving them a new outlet for their products.

Bumper wheat production expected in Madaripur

MADARIPUR, Apr 11 Bumper production of wheat is expected by farmers of the district this year, reports BSS.

The Agriculture Extension Department sources said a total of 6764 hectares have been brought under wheat cultivation in the district with a production target of 15,118 tonnes of wheat.

Due to favourable climatic condition, wheat plants have grown well in all the four thanas of the district.

Tofail at ILO-NPO seminar Healthy working environment can ensure sustainable growth

By Staff Correspondent

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed yesterday said that there was no alternative to continuous and systematic improvement of productivity and only a healthy working environment could increase productivity for ensuring sustainable development in the country.

"The prime objective of our government is to alleviate poverty as quickly as possible. The government is undertaking a number of macro-economic and sectoral policies in this regard," he said.

The minister was inaugurating a three-day seminar on Industrial Relations and Productivity organised jointly by International Labour Organisation (ILO) in co-operation with the National Productivity Organisation (NPO) of the Ministry of Industries at the IDB Bhaban in the city yesterday.

"To create such an environment, a chapter on industrial relations has been included in the new Industrial Policy for the first time in the country," the minister said.

Referring to the newly-launched Industrial Policy, the minister said: "The government has assumed the role of a facilitator and has been making efforts to support the private sector in becoming the key agent for sustainable industrial growth."

"The policy takes into consideration the dynamic changes that are taking place worldwide and seeks to facilitate the operation of the free market economic system," said Tofail.

The Industrial Policy 1999 puts in place a range of incentive packages and supportive measures that are consistent with the country's growth objective," he said.

He said the government also encourages employment of women at all levels so that the industrial sector becomes an area of equal opportunity from all.

Addressing the seminar, Industries Secretary KM Ejazul Huq said that healthy and harmonious industrial relations were the pre-requisites for raising productivity both at

macro and micro levels. Participatory management is an instrument for higher productivity, which ensures better quality of life at all levels, the secretary said.

"For developing a participatory management system in Bangladesh, some of the variables that are responsible for employee productivity and industrial relations such as motivation, contingent compensation, job design, goal setting, socio-technical job environment and quality of management should be analysed carefully in the context of our socio-economic environment."

In his speech, M.A. Hasanein, Director of ILO Office in Dhaka, emphasised that productivity would be a key factor if Bangladesh is to increase its per capita income from the current level of US 300 dollars to 650 dollars by 2010.

Rokia A. Rahman, President of the Bangladesh Employers' Federation, and Abdus Salam Khan, President of Jatiya Sramik League, also spoke on the occasion.



Enthusiastic people from all walks of life are inscribing their good wishes for success of the Bangladesh Cricket team in the forthcoming Cricket World Cup in the "Good Luck Bangladesh" book launched by Emirates Wednesday at Dhaka Sheraton Hotel and Emirates offices in Dhaka, Chittagong and Sylhet and at Rajshahi Tennis Complex. The book will be kept open till 8 pm on April 13. The 'Good Luck Bangladesh Book' will be presented to the captain of the Bangladesh team prior to their departure for England.

— Emirates photo

IIT seminar on human resources opens Labour minister for boosting technological skills

Labour and Employment Minister M A Mannan yesterday underscored the need for upgrading socio-economic conditions of the people of the Islamic Ummah by boosting the technical skills and knowledge, reports BSS.

He emphasised the need for chalking out pragmatic programmes to enhance the capacities of all OIC member states side by side expanding mutual cooperation for the betterment of the Islamic Ummah.

The minister was inaugurating an international seminar on Human resources development for sustained economic growth and poverty alleviation as well as progress in the member states of the OIC, organised by the Islamic Institute of Technology (IIT) at Sonargaon Hotel here.

Chairman of IIT Board of Governors Dr Nasser A Al-

Dekhyel chaired the opening session which was also addressed by IIT Secretary General Prof Dr Abdul Matin Patwari, Islamic Development Bank's Mohammad Ali Toure and IIT Secretary General -designate Dr M Anwar Hossain.

Mannan said mutual cooperation and dissemination of information in the field of human resource development is of vital importance in the context of present open market policy.

The minister described the IIT as the symbol of the Islamic solidarity and joint Islamic action and said IIT has made significant progress over the last twelve years and is playing a vital role in developing human resources for the member states of the OIC.

He said, in today's world, technology has become the key to progress, prosperity, global

political and economic influence and the Islamic Ummah cannot afford to lag behind.

Mannan said Bangladesh government will provide IIT with all support to enable it to expand and develop it into a centre of further excellence for the benefit of all the Muslims of the world.

Dr Nasser assured all-out support from Saudi King Fahd Bin Abdul Aziz in developing this institute of excellence.

Dr Matin Patwari said IIT will be well-prepared both by physical expansion as well as academically to increase and diversify its training facilities.

Toure of IDB mentioned that Bangladesh and IDB have been partners in development since 1977 and the bank supported Bangladesh through project and trade financing operations amounting to over 766 million US dollars.



Ronald P Hicks, Resident Representative of the International Monetary Fund in Bangladesh, delivers his speech at the executive development programme on 'Challenges for Micro Economic Stabilisation and Structural Change in Bangladesh' organised by Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited recently in its Boardroom.

— IIBL photo

IBBL executive development programme held

The executive development programme on 'Challenges for Macro Economic Stabilisation and Structural Change in Bangladesh' organised by Islamic Bank Bangladesh Limited was held in its boardroom in the city recently.

The programme was presided over by Mohammad Younus, Vice Chairman of the Bank.

Ronald P. Hicks, Resident Representative of the International Monetary Fund (IMF) in Bangladesh, delivered his speech as chief discussant.

It was also attended, among others, top officials and executives including Mir Quasem Ali, Director, Noor Mohammad Akon, Alternate Director, M. Kamaluddin Chowdhury, Executive President, ASM Fakhru Ahsan, Director General, IB-TRA, Nasiruddin Ahmed, and Mohammad Velayet Hossain, Executive Vice-Presidents of the bank.

BCIC Tender Notice
বিসিআইসি'র পণ্য শিলায়নে জাতীয় অগ্রগতির প্রতীক

The Managing Director, TSP Complex Ltd., Patenga, Chittagong invites sealed quotation from the bonafide Supplier/Manufacturers/Agent for the following tender enquiries:

Sl. No.	Tender enquiry No. & date	Description of goods	Terms of delivery	Due date of opening	Price of tender documents (non-refundable)
1.	TSP/PUR/MFG/20/98-99/850 dated 23-3-99. (Two envelope system)	Carrier & return Roller	Free delivery upto TSP Stores	Dt. 25-4-99 at 11-30 AM	Tk. 100/- per set
2.	TSP/PUR/INST/50/98-99/796 dated 20-3-99. (Two envelope system)	Instrument Spares	-do-	Dt. 25-4-99 at 11-30 AM	Tk. 25/- per set

Tender documents will be available from (i) The Controller of Accounts, BCIC, BCIC Bhaban, 30-31, Dilkusha C/A, Dhaka (ii) BCIC Branch Office, 6, Agrabad C/A, Chittagong & (iii) TSP Complex Ltd., Patenga, Chittagong upto 11-30 AM on the date mentioned above and will be opened immediately thereafter in presence of bidders, if any. No tender documents will be sold on the opening date. Management reserves the right to accept or reject any or all the tenders without assigning any reason whatsoever.

BCIC-284-4/4/99
DFP-7141-6/4
G-624

Poh Lian - Blue Star Training & Test Center at Savar was inaugurated today. The Single Roof 33,000 sq. ft. structure is made entirely of pre-fabricated steel supplied by Zamil Steel of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and installed by Magnum Engineering Ltd. The entered progress was completed in a record time of 12 weeks.