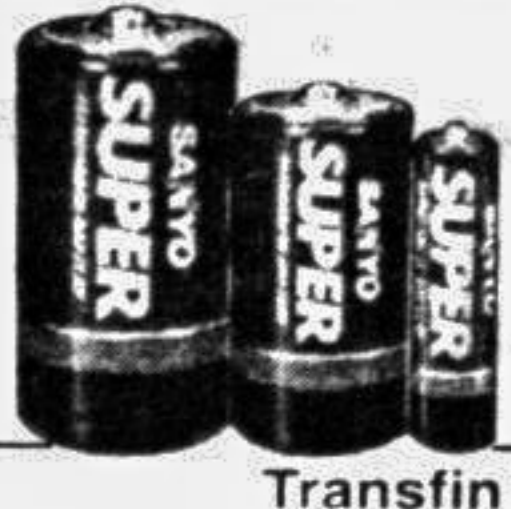


**SANYO**  
Japan  
**Dry Battery**



Transfin Trading Ltd.  
Tel: 815307-10, Fax: 813062

**National Housing Finance & Investments Ltd.**  
Home Mortgage Loans available for:  
Construction of houses  
Purchase of houses or apartments  
Renovation or extensions to existing properties  
Purchase of housing plots in approved land developments

Telephone inquiries are welcome  
Chamber Building (6th Fl), 122-124 Motiheel, Dhaka-1000  
Telephone: 955 9311-2, 955 3387, 955 3254 Fax: 956 8967

### World Bank joins 48 countries to combat corruption

WASHINGTON, Oct 28: The World Bank has released a list of 48 countries including India where it is working with local authorities to combat corruption, says AFP.

It is important to note that this is not a list of countries that the World Bank has singled out to investigate corruption in, a bank statement said yesterday.

The presence or absence of a country on this list is in no way indicative of the presence or absence of corruption in the country.

Instead, it added, the countries on the list are those that have invited World Bank help in mounting a systematic assault on corruption.

The countries are: Albania, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, unspecified Balkan nations, Bangladesh, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia, Bulgabffn, Burkino Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, China, Colombia, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Guinea, India, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Korea, Latvia, Malawi, Mali, Moldova, Morocco, Mozambique, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Paraguay, Philippines, Poland, Romania, Russia, Slovakia, Sri Lanka, Tanzania, Thailand, Uganda, Vietnam, Yemen and Zambia.

Yesterday's announcement made good a pledge in September by World Bank President James Wolfensohn to make available the names of members that have sought its anti-corruption help.

He said the bank had conducted seminars and helped train judges and investigative journalists in several countries.

## 10th BATEXPO to be inaugurated on Sunday RMG industry still in a dilemma to work out post-2005 strategy

By Inam Ahmed



Anisur Rahman Sinha

ness. We are planning to shift garments factories, which do not meet the safety and other requirements, to the garments village outside Dhaka so that they can plan their factories there to meet international standards.

But the more urgent need is to find out ways to face countries which produce the complete range of apparels and fabrics after quota will be freed and GSP facility withdrawn.

Having developed textile sec-

tors, it is cheaper for these countries to go for forward linkage industries. They can easily install sewing machines, train workers and go for making apparels as the market becomes open to all.

"But for a country like ours, which lacks in adequate number of backward linkage industries, it will be really difficult to set these up because of fund shortage," said Sinha.

ernment policy detailing its plans to tackle the situation. The policy must give us the direction about how much of the required huge capital will be available for backward linkage. Only then, we can plan to overcome the rest of the hurdles."

"For example, if the government can provide half the requisite capital, then we can go for improving the port, customs service and other infrastructure facilities to overcome the situation of investment dearth," explained the BGMEA chief.

"We need to set up bonded warehouses for the RMG factories which will have stocks of commonly-used fabrics. This will help importers get cloths readily, thereby reducing the lead time for exports," he observed.

Among the local problems

are the port congestion, infrastructural inadequacies, high insurance and banking charges, hefty power tariff, law and order situation and confrontational politics. These are keeping production costs higher.

The country's garments exports faced a setback as a fall-out effect of the devaluation of Southeast Asian currencies, specially those of Indonesia, Thailand and Malaysia. As these countries became competitive, they once again opened up their closed apparel factories and orders were diverted there.

"But now, the situation is stabilising for us. The devaluation effect on the Southeast Asian countries is now on the wane and we are getting the orders back," Sinha reassured.

"The recent Bangladesh Bank decision to reschedule RMG loans without ten per cent down-payment played a positive role in our recovery," he pointed out.

"Janata and Agani banks are now in a supportive role and we have been able to reopen more than 200 factories with their help. Now, if Sonali Bank also comes up with a similar approach, then we would be able to further consolidate our position."

## Leather goods make marked turnaround Export shows significant growth in first quarter

Garments, jute, jute goods and leather — that form the core of the country's export basket — showed significant growth during July-September period of the 1999-2000 fiscal, reports BSS.

The growth rate in knitwear during the period stood at 27.3 per cent, woven garments 3.2 per cent, jute and jute goods 33.66 per cent and leather 35.88 per cent, which are higher than the same period in 1998-99.

Manufactured products also gained a 4.83 per cent growth over the three months, recording US \$62.04 million export. However, all other major export

products like tea, agri-products, engineering products, handicrafts and frozen food showed negative growth.

Both knit and woven garment exports stood at US \$ 1066.21 million, accounting for 76.56 per cent of the total export during July-September period.

Export of leather goods showed a significant turnaround, registering a 35.88 per cent growth to US \$ 53.93 million.

The total export in September was valued at US \$ 416.55 million while the cumulative export in July-September (1999-2000) period was US

\$1392.63 million, which recorded 8.19 per cent growth.

Commerce and Industries Minister Tofail Ahmed, who is now in Saudi Arabia for performing Omrah, expressed satisfaction over the export statement of the first three months.

The volume of export in the three months increased by 9.16 per cent but due to fall in export prices mainly of primary products by 14.89 per cent, we did not get expected prices of our products.

The impact of the ongoing global economic recession is resulting in the fall of demand in bigger consumers markets.



Dhaka Sheraton management extended a warm welcome to the Managing Director of Tata International Ltd Deoras Sudhir upon his arrival at the hotel recently. San Amalan, General Manager of the hotel, welcomed the distinguished guest. Rashida Muhiuddin, Director of Public Relations of the hotel, is also seen. — Sheraton photo

### IMF resident representative at FICCI meeting

## Macroeconomic scenario positive despite weakness in few areas

IMF resident representative Ronald P Hicks has said the macroeconomic situation of Bangladesh is broadly a positive one although the overall economy is still fragile for slowdown in some productive sectors, reports UNB.

Macroeconomic scenario has been quite respectable and inflation quite well contained despite the damaging effects of the last floods, he noted.

"However, the economic situation is quite fragile, and certain key areas such as exports and industrial output are presently weak, and the foreign reserves position is not strong," he told the monthly luncheon meeting of Foreign Investors' Chamber of Commerce and Industry (FICCI) at a local hotel yesterday.

FICCI acting president Chan Kun Han also addressed the function.

Hicks said the country's economic growth over the years had been focused largely in agriculture, especially a strong boro crop.

There is no doubt that the growth needs to be accelerated significantly, and should be much more broadly based, particularly as regards the manufacturing and service sectors, if the economy's potential is to be realised, he observed.

"This is surely needed if a much larger dent on poverty and critically needed new employment opportunities are to be achieved."

Referring to a recent international study, he said foreign investors place a stable macroeconomic and political environment well on top of their priorities as preconditions for investment.

"When compared, for example, with tax breaks, concessions of various sorts and so on a stable macroeconomic and political situation is at the top of their concerns," he said quoting the study.

Hicks said foreign investment clearly has a very important role to play in the development of Bangladesh and it is a contributor to — and indeed,

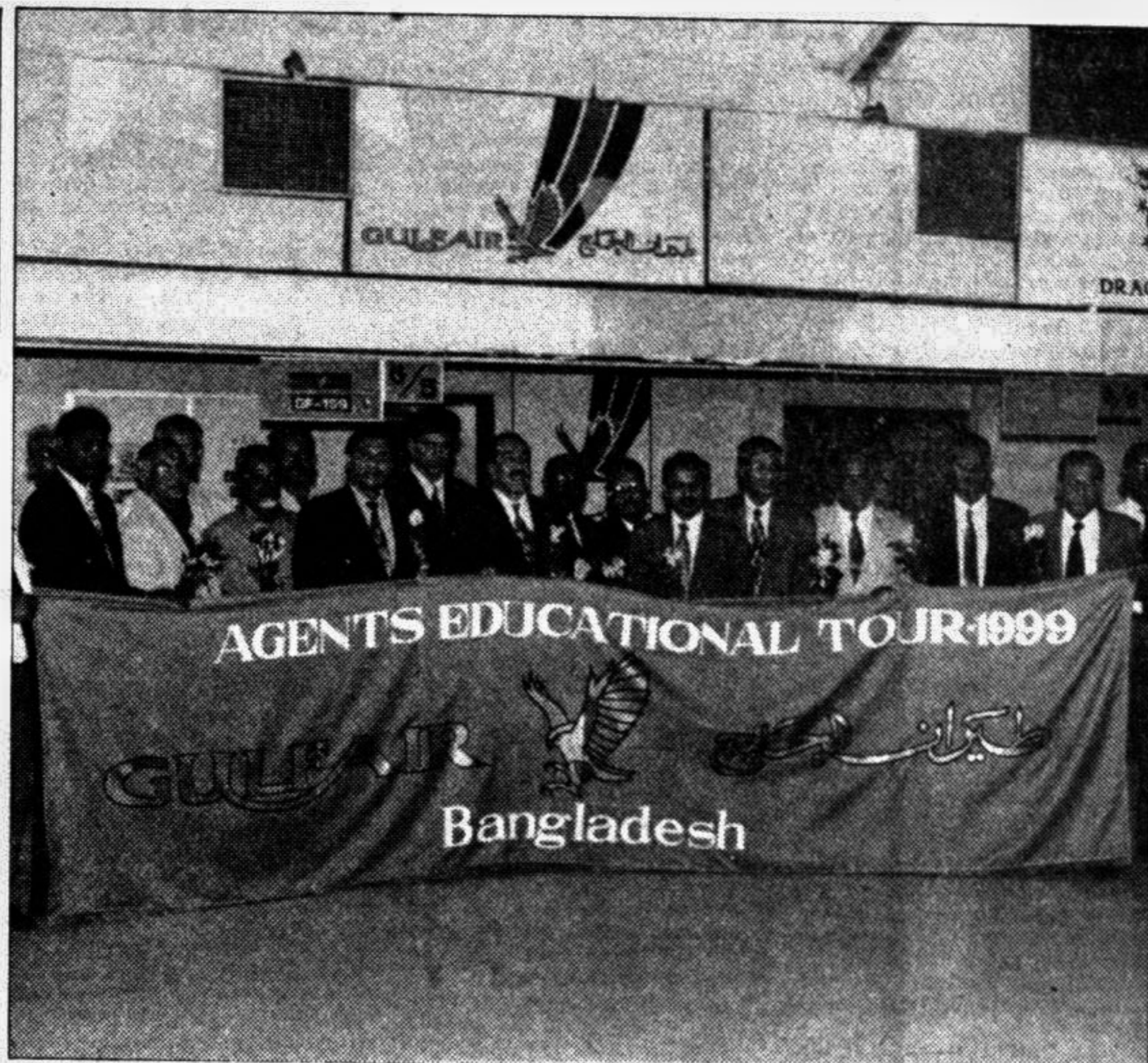
also a barometer — of the strength of the economic development process in the country.

At the end of September 1999, IMF endorsed a proposal to replace the Enhanced Structural Adjustment Facility (ESAF) — a concessional lending facility of the Fund — with a new Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PROGF) scheme.

"This new facility would be aimed at making poverty-reduction efforts among low-income member countries a key and more explicit element of a renewed growth-oriented economic strategy," he told the function.

He said the cornerstone of the new approach is the vital interrelationship between economic growth and social development, a linkage that has perhaps been insufficiently recognised in the past.

It will encourage greater country ownership of the poverty-reducing programme, taking into account the social and political realities of the



A group of ten top productive agents of Gulf Air led by Kashem Chowdhury, Sales Manager, left Dhaka on Tuesday on a five-day educational tour to Egypt. Picture shows Ismail Ali Haqiqi, Manager-Bangladesh and Nepal, with the agents at the Zia International Airport prior to their departure.

— Gulf Air photo

### Pak central bank allows limited use of frozen accounts

KARACHI, Oct 28: Pakistan's Central Bank yesterday allowed restricted withdrawal of money by hundreds of politicians whose bank accounts were frozen after the October 12 military coup, officials said, reports AFP.

The affected people can withdraw money to pay outstanding loan liabilities to Banks and other financial institutions, utility bills or Government taxes, the State Bank of Pakistan said in a statement.

The relaxation can also be used for paying the salaries of employees of trading and industrial concerns, but the Banks must ensure the facility was not misused, the statement said.

The Bank accounts of some 500 people, including ousted premier Nawaz Sharif, former premier Benazir Bhutto, legislators, advisors, businessmen and big land owners were frozen on October 15, the freeze also applied to accounts of their spouses.

### Indian truckers call off strike

NEW DELHI, Oct 28: Indian truckers called off a week-long strike after the government refused to roll back a hike in diesel prices but offered other major concessions, union officials said today, reports AFP.

JM Saxena, secretary general of the All India Motor Transport Congress (AIMTC) which spearheaded the protest, told AFP that a compromise had been worked out late Wednesday.

"We did not make the diesel price rise a prestige issue. There is no loss of face for us involved as the government has promised to review the price hike in the future," he told AFP.

"There is still some hope." The AIMTC, which represents 32 cargo haulers' unions, called off the protest after marathon late-night talks with Surface Transport Minister Nitish Kumar.

## Govt allocations for CHT development schemes raised

BANDARBAN, Oct 28: The government has substantially increased the allocations for various development schemes of CHT Development Board, reports UNB.

Officials said a higher allocation of Tk 52.29 crore has been made during the current fiscal year to implement various development programmes, including extension of education facilities, development of culture, boosting of agriculture, horticulture, pisciculture and ensuring safe water supply in the region.

The allocation in this sector was Tk 40.03 crore in 1998-99, Tk 22.79 crore in 1997-98 and Tk 16.41 crore in 1996-97, officials said.

They said that under the annual allocation of the government, the Board has implemented 1,135 projects at a cost of Tk 65.59 crore till 1998-99 since its inception in 1976.

The Board has rehabilitated 2,000 landless and marginal tribal families of Khagrachari in 1979-80 with financial assistance from the Asian Development Bank.

Some 8,000 acres were brought under rubber cultivation and 2000 acres fruit cultivation at a cost of Tk 52.19 crore.

In 1994-95, the Board started another project to rehabilitate 500 tribal families.

**Bangladesh Railway**  
Engineering Department (East Zone)  
**Tender Notice**

Tender No. CSP/8 Dated: 12-10-99

Sealed tenders are invited from the enlisted Railway suppliers of East Zone and reputed suppliers of other department for the following works.

Name of works : At CSP/CTB: Supplying Rubber Pad & Insert Pin etc. for concrete sleeper plant, Chhatak Bazar.

Approximate cost 1.06 lakh taka. Earnest money 2% of the quoted price. Tender documents will be available for sale from the office of the Chief Engineer/East, Bangladesh Railway, Chhatak Bazar & Divisional Engineer/3, Bangladesh Railway, Dhaka up to 1-11-99 on all working days with deposit of non-refundable sum of Tk 400/- (four hundred) per set. Dropping and opening time 12:00 hours & 12:30 hours on 2-11-99 in the office mentioned above. Supply of other departments have to take prior approved of Chief Engineer/East Bangladesh Railway, Chhatak Bazar for purchasing. Tender documents and have to deposit Tk 3000/- (three thousand) as an enlistment fee for this particular works.

Sample may be seen in the office of Executive Engineer/concrete sleeper plant/Chhatak Bazar if required.

Railway authority reserves the right to accept or reject any tender as a whole or part without assigning any reason whatsoever.

**Md Abdul Haque**  
Executive Engineer  
Bangladesh Railway  
Chhatak.

Rail/B/147  
DFP-23366-21/10  
G-1890

**Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh**  
Office of the Police Super Kurigram  
**Notice**

Tenders in sealed envelopes under the terms and conditions mentioned below are invited from garment manufacturers of Bangladesh/suppliers/contractors for supply of ready-made liveries for police musical bands of Kurigram district. Tenders will have to be submitted by 12:00 Noon on 4-11-99 in the tender box kept at the office of the undersigned and the tender receiving box will be opened the same day at 12:30 PM in presence of all the members of the committee before the tenderers.

The authority is not obliged to accept the lowest tender and reserves the absolute power to reject the part or all the tenders without assigning any reason. Tender schedule containing tender can be procured from the Kurigram police office during office hours till 3-11-99 everyday on payment of Tk 400/- in cash non-refundable.

**Terms and conditions:-**

- Attested copy of renewed licence of the trade of garments manufacturing/supply/contractorship business will have to be submitted by the tenderers with the tender.
- Tenderer will have to submit a Bank Draft for an amount of Taka 2,000/- as the earnest money with the tender.
- Tenderer will have to submit one set on ready-made livery as the sample of the livery with the tender.
- The accepted tenderer will have to deposit a Bank Draft for an amount of Taka 5,000/- in favour of the Police Super, Kurigram as the security money within 7 (seven) days of receiving the work order.
- The accepted tenderer will have to supply livery as per accepted sample of livery on receiving the work order.

**Abdus Sattar Shah**  
Police Super  
Kurigram.

DFP-23544-24/10  
G-1893

**Eastern Cables Ltd**  
Patenga, Chittagong  
**International Tender Notice**

Sealed offers with 1% earnest money are invited by the Eastern Cables Ltd, Patenga, Chittagong for procurement of undermentioned item on C&F (C) Chittagong Liner Term basis:

Tender No & date	Item	Cost of tender document	Date of opening	Source of finance
EC/PUR/F-156 dt 27.10.99	Aluminium Wire, Qty: 300 M/T	Tk 1000/-	16.11.99 at 11.05 AM	Any untied source cash/credit/grant etc.

Tender documents will be available during working hour from the following officers:  
1) Cash Section, Eastern Cables Ltd., Patenga, Chittagong.  
2) Cash Section, BSEC, BSEC Bhaban, 102, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka-1215.

No tender document will be sold on the date of opening.

GD-989

**Tender Notice**

Sealed tenders under the terms and conditions mentioned below are invited from bonafide contractors/suppliers for purchasing wooden danesh, utensils and stationary goods for Kurigram district Police Ration Store. Tenders will have to be submitted by 12:00 hours on 4-11-99 in the tender box kept at the office of the Police Super, Kurigram and the tender box will be opened the same day at 13:00 hours before the tenderers (if any one remains present). Each tenderer will have to submit earnest money for an amount of Taka 5,000 (five thousand) in favour of the Police Super, Kurigram, along with each tender, otherwise tender will be treated as rejected.

Earnest money of the successful contractors will be treated as security money. Schedule of tender containing detailed terms and conditions of the tender can be purchased at the cost of Taka 400/- (four hundred) in cash (non-refundable) till 3-11-99 during office hours from OC Ration Store, Kurigram. No schedule will be sold on the day of submitting tender. Work order will be given to the accepted tenderer subject to the allocation of fund. The authority reserves the power to accept/reject any tender without assigning any reason.

**Abdus Sattar Shah**  
Police Super  
Kurigram

DFP-23612-24/10  
G-1894