

Rich nations' aid to poor on the increase again

WASHINGTON, Jan 29: After more than five years of decline, foreign aid to poor countries from the main industrial nations has started to increase, a senior aid official said Friday, reports AP.

But Jean-Claude Faure, who heads the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development, said in an interview it remains too early to say whether the downward spiral has halted for good.

The OECD is a 29-nation Paris-based agency that monitors its members' economies and global trends. Faure provided an advance look at his committee's annual report on foreign aid flows due out next month.

The good news in this report is that overseas development assistance rose in 1998 by nearly 10 per cent after more than five years of uninterrupted decline," Faure said. "Let us hope that the trend in 1998 can be consolidated in the near future."

Faure said 1998 was the last year for which complete figures were available. Early indicators for 1999, while not stellar, reflected some stabilisation in aid flows, he said.

He identified three factors that indicated while 1999 might not be a turning point, more attention is being paid to poor countries and their needs, including increased amounts of foreign aid.

The campaign launched by the Jubilee 2000 movement and nongovernment organisations to reduce the debt of poor countries proved to be the most powerful grass-roots initiative in favour of developing countries in a very long time," Faure said. The movement brought together churches and poverty reduction groups and figures ranging from Pope John Paul II to U2 rock star Bono, who lobbied Congress for debt relief.

In response to the campaign, the major industrialised nations agreed to provide \$29 billion in debt relief to the world's poorest nations, requiring them to use any savings in interest payments on health and education projects.

Another factor, Faure said, was growing rich-poor partnerships. This means, he said, that instead of being passive recipients of foreign aid, countries began to participate more actively in managing development programmes provided by governments or multilateral lending institutions.

Then there was the international community's psychodrama in Seattle," Faure said.

Emirates starts Bahrain service

Emirates' first flight to Bahrain took off from the Dubai International Airport recently inaugurating a new service to the airline's 49th destination and completing its links to all the Arab Gulf Cooperation Council countries, says a press release.

The flight, EK241, was operated with Emirates' latest aircraft—the Boeing 777-300 bearing the airline's new corporate livery.

Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Emirates' Chairman, who led the official delegation on the inaugural flight, said, "Bahrain's addition is a great start to the year 2000, and marks a significant development for Emirates, as now we link Dubai to all GCC countries."

With Sheikh Ahmed was a VIP team including Yahya Al Suweidi, Assistant Undersecretary, Ministry of Communications, Abu Dhabi, UAE; Abdul Rehman Al Mutalwee, Director-General of the Dubai Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Dr. Obeid Buisit, Director General of Dubai Customs.

From Emirates were Tim Clark, Chief Director Airline, and Ghaith Al Ghaith, Commercial Operations Director.

The flight was welcomed by a high level Bahraini delegation led by Sheikh Ali bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, Bahrain's Minister for Transport.

The same evening, Sheikh Ahmed hosted a gala dinner at the Gulf Hotel's Convention Centre for more than 850 guests who included Bahraini dignitaries, the airline's corporate clients and the press.

For the first week of service to January 31, Emirates will operate six flights. From February 1 to March 25, the airline will increase to 11 flights a week.

From March 26 to October 28, Emirates will fly twice a day to Bahrain, offering passengers a choice of morning and evening departures.

Passengers flying with Emirates from Bahrain will have a wide choice of convenient connections from Dubai to destinations in Europe, Asia, Australia, Africa and the Gulf and Middle East.



Sheikh Ahmed bin Saeed Al Maktoum, Emirates' Chairman, leads a VIP Dubai delegation to Bahrain on Emirates' inaugural flight. —Emirates photo

Globalisation threatens women's progress in South Africa

JOHANNESBURG, Jan 29: The globalisation of the South African economy could limit the progress of women in the workplace, says IPS.

A study by the Commission on Gender Equality (CGE), a statutory gender watchdog has found that the glass ceiling for female workers is yet to be broken and that things could in fact get worse.

Research into some of the country's top companies reveals that women still occupy the lowest rungs of corporate ladders; that fewer than one in two of these companies have gender advancement policies in place and that resistance to women's advancement is high, both among male managers and colleagues.

The CGE will use the research to go on education of female workers to win over the resisters and lobby the private sector to catch up with the public and political sectors where equitable female representation is ensured through quotas, affirmative action and training.

Most advertisements for suitably qualified female and black candidates will be favoured. In addition, the ruling African National Congress (ANC) sets aside on three public seats for female political candidates in national, provincial and local elections.

"If we had to walk a distance to get government to come this far, imagine how far we have to walk with the private sector. We want to create awareness and consensus. But the watchdog will bite if it has to," said the CGE's deputy chair Phumelele Ntombela-Nzamide, at the report's launch in Johannesburg last week.

The CGE has the power to investigate, subpoena offenders and lobby for female advancement.

For now, the CGE has chosen the carrot over the stick. A high profile conference in February will attempt to set benchmarks for women's leadership in the private sector by highlighting corporations with best practices.

The 14 nation Southern African Development Community (SADC) representatives will give a regional perspective on women and work; while Australian and English lobbyists will teach their South African sisters a thing or two. Australia and the United Kingdom have notched up significant successes in equal opportunities on the shop floor.

The conference objective is to draw up an easy-to-read manual to serve as a step-by-step guide to female advancement. There is a lot of work to do in South Africa where the research into 103 companies has shown that almost nine in 10 executive and non-executive directors as well as senior executive managers are male.

On average, only one in four companies had women managers at senior, middle and junior levels the statistics become more promising at assistant management levels where 32 per cent of incumbents were female. The cloud has a silver lining because these women should advance up the ladder.

But on the whole, the picture was depressing. "Women, particularly black women, reside in the lower graded and predominantly non-technical fields. Racial disparity among women is evident with a disproportionately higher number of white women at management levels."

The authors also warned that globalisation demands restructuring and downsizing and it is often the budgets of female-intensive departments that go first. These include public relations, human resources and communication.

Metal: Weekly Roundup

Gold prices slip on BOE sales, silver strong

LONDON, Jan 29: Gold prices eased despite a better-than-expected outcome to the fourth Bank of England gold auction in six months, reports AFP.

The spot price on the London market fell to 286.50 dollars per ounce from 287.70 dollars last week.

The Bank of England continued its programme of sales by auctioning 25 tonnes of bullion at 289.50 dollars the ounce in an operation which analysts said had been satisfactory, with the sale 4.3 times oversubscribed.

But the market then turned negative amid rumours that some gold producers had been among the buyers. An announcement by the Dutch central bank that it had sold 23 tonnes of gold last week also weighed on prices.

Silver: Strong Silver prices advanced as demand remained strong and the prospect of Chinese central bank sales dissipated somewhat.

The spot price on the London Bullion Market rose to 5.29 dollars an ounce from 5.13 dollars.

Platinum and Palladium: Peak. Prices hit new heights this week, boosted by strong world demand and continued uncertainty surrounding Russian exports.

Platinum prices rose to 462 dollars an ounce from 444 dollars last week, while palladium was going for 476 dollars, a new record high.

Palladium, a precious metal much used by the auto-manufacturing industry, has scaled a succession of peaks since mid-December, amid irregular exports from Russia.

Base metals: Nickel prices soared to five-year high points, while fundamentals for the entire base metals complex remained essentially sound, even if some prices fell due to an increase in market stocks.

Nickel benefitted from strong global demand for steel and from problems with Australia's laterite producing sector.

Aluminium's upside was capped by indications that Canadian producer Alcan was planning to increase production. Last week, US group Alcoa announced an annual output increase of 200,000 tonnes from next month.

In general, the fundamentals for the complex are good, analysts say, as stock levels remain low, demand strong and supply limited.

Three-month nickel prices gained 60 dollars to 8,660 dollars a tonne as official stocks on the London Metal Exchange fell to 42,708 tonnes from 44,010 tonnes a week earlier.

Copper prices fell 47 dollars to 1,878 dollars a tonne as stock levels grew 27,200 tonnes to 813,075 tonnes.

Aluminium prices advanced 2.5 dollars to 1,728 dollars a tonne despite an increase in reserves to 781,900 tonnes.

Zinc lost 40 dollars a tonne to 1,163 dollars as stock levels grew to 291,175 tonnes.

Lead prices gained 2.5 dollars to 482.5 dollars a tonne while in prices shed 170 dollars to 5,860 dollars a tonne.

Jakarta freezes another bank operation

JAKARTA, Jan 29: The Indonesian government has decided to freeze Bank Putra Mulikarsa (BPM) operations after a report from an appointed independent auditor showed the bank's capital adequacy ratio (CAR) stands at a negative 48 per cent, reports Xinhua.

CAR is the ratio between a bank's equity capital and risk-weighted assets.

BPM is the 49th bank so far frozen by the government.

The decision to bring the bank's business activities to a halt is based on the conclusion of an analysis of the bank's performance," the Indonesian Bank Restructuring Agency (IBRA) said in a press release.

The bank now has non-performing loans totaling more than 80 per cent, the Antara News Agency reported Saturday quoting the press release.

With the decision effective on Friday, the release said, IBRA will immediately take actions to secure the bank's assets and prepare fund payment to its clients through the paying bank, namely Bank Central Asia (BCA), starting on February 3.

UN sets up web-site to link business, protestors

UNITED NATIONS, Jan 29: The United Nations has added to its burgeoning Internet sites with a new programme that seeks to link its own agencies, corporations and voluntary groups on the environment, job security and human rights, says Reuters.

Opening in time for the World Economic Forum in Davos Switzerland, today, the "global compact" web site is designed to be interactive so opposing groups can communicate with each other and exchange data, according to George Kell, an executive in Secretary-General Kofi Annan's office.

The web site (www.globalcompact.org) also intends to disseminate articles, reviews and position papers on various topics, environmental impact checklists, a calendar of events and a UN database on labour, human rights, the environment and profiles of countries around the world.

The new Internet programme takes its name from a speech Annan gave a year ago at Davos. He then called on multinational corporations to set world labour, human rights and environmental standards and offered one-stop shopping at the United Nations to help reach these goals.

He proposed a "global compact" between the United Nations, business leaders and advocacy groups and warned that disparities in wealth and a lack of social concerns could lead to a backlash against trade liberalisation.

Dhaka WASA Tender Notice

(পানির অসুবিধা বন্ধ করণ।। ম্যানহোলের ঢাকনা চুরি রোধ করণ।)

Tenders are invited from 1st class enlisted civil contractors of Dhaka WASA for constructing pump have at the site of 5 or more deep tubewells installed at various locations under the Interim Project-4 at an allocated expenditure for Taka 22,92,642. Tenders will be received till 12:00 Noon on 14.2.2000 and will be opened the same day at 2:00 PM before the tenderers or their representatives (if anyone remains present).

Schedule of tender will be available in the office of the Chief Accounts Officer of Dhaka WASA, WASA Bhaban, 98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka and all MODS Zone Offices of Dhaka WASA. Other details will be available in the office of the undersigned.

Address:-
WASA Bhaban
98, Kazi Nazrul Islam Avenue, Dhaka.
DFP-1304-23/1 G-147

A K M Zafar Ullah
Project Director
Interim Project-4
Dhaka WASA

GD-83

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh
Office of the Executive Engineer
Road Division, Tangail

(R&H), Tender Invitation Notice

"Sealed tenders are invited in Bangladesh Form No 2911"

- Tender Notice No-32 (thirty-two)TRD, year 1999-2000.
- Name of work: Work of pavement repair, protection work and earth work on both sides of different parts of pavement from 29th (part) kilometre to 34th (part) kilometre of Tangail-Aricha Road under Tangail Road Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year.
- Estimated cost: Taka 14,85,642/-
- Security money: Taka 29,715/- will have to be submitted in the forms of Bank Draft/Treasury Chalan from any scheduled bank in favour of the Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Tangail.
- Time limit allowed for: 30 (thirty) days.
- Completion of work:
- Eligibility of tenderers: From 'A' to 'D' (R&H) enlisted contractor.
- Offices where tenders will be available: Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Tangail/ Mymensingh/Jamalpur/Kishoreganj/Netrakona/Sherpur/Executive Engineer (R&H), Bridge Design Division-1, Bridge Zone, Dhaka/Deputy Commissioner, Tangail/Police Super, Tangail and Sub-Divisional Engineer (R&H) under Tangail Road Division, Road Sub-Division, Tangail/Mirzapur/Modhupur/1st Line Workshop Sub-Division, Tangail/ Officer-in-Charge, Sadar Thana, Tangail.
- Offices where tenders will be received: Divisional Commissioner, Dhaka/Additional Chief Engineer (R&H), Dhaka Zone, Sarak Bhaban, Ramna, Dhaka/Superintending Engineer (R&H), Road Circle, Mymensingh/Planning, Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka Zone, Dhaka/Monitoring & Evaluation Circle, Dhaka/Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Tangail/Mymensingh/Jamalpur/ Kishoreganj/ Netrakona/ Sherpur/Deputy Commissioner, Tangail/Police Super, Tangail and Officer-in-Charge, Sadar Thana, Tangail.
- Last date of selling tender: 22.2.2000 till office hours.
- Last date of receiving tender: 23.2.2000 till 12-30 PM
- Date and time of opening tender: 29.2.2000 at 2:00 PM.
- Date of lottery: 7.3.2000 at 11:00 AM at the office of the undersigned.

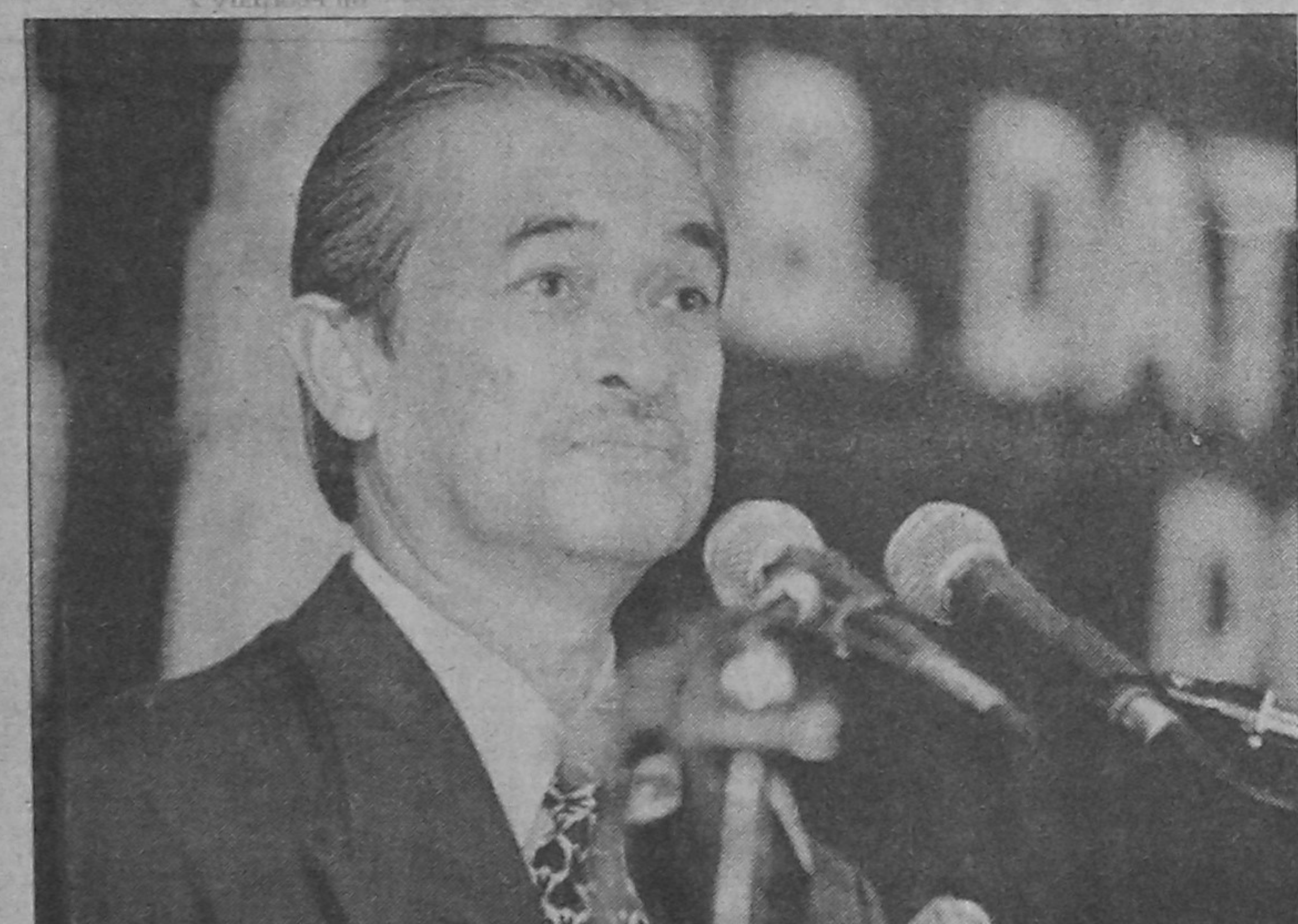
Work of pavement repair, protection work, earth work on both sides of the different parts of pavement from 29th (part) kilometre to 34th (part) kilometre of Tangail-Aricha Road under Tangail Road Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year.

S	Name of work	Head of expenditure	Estimated cost	Earnest money	Time for completion of work	Cost of tender document	Eligibility of contractor	Remark
1	Work of pavement repair, protection work, earth work on both sides of different parts of pavement from 29th (part) kilometre to 34th (part) kilometre of Tangail-Aricha Road under Tangail Road Division during 1999-2000 fiscal year.	168-repair/266-development	Taka 14,85,642/-	Taka 29,715/-	30 (thirty) days	Taka 520/-	'A' to 'D' general classes of contractors	

NB: 1) Official at the office where tender will be received will receive the tender in the specific date as mentioned in the tender notice and will send the tenders in sealed condition by a special messenger to the Executive Engineer (R&H), Road Division, Tangail.
2) Work order will be issued only within the limit of allocation by mentioning the volume of work.
3) Tenderers will submit tenders by giving through reading the terms and conditions of the tender.
4) Bill for the work completed will be paid after on-the-spot examination by the engineer-in-charge (executive officer).
5) If the day of receiving tender or the day of holding lottery are declared holiday by the government or hartal, then the tender will be received and the lottery will be held the following working day.
6) Contractor will have to sign 1 (one) set of additional terms and conditions on the day of formal submission of tender if due to unavoidable circumstances it is not possible to include terms and conditions within the tender.

AKM Rezaul Islam
Executive Engineer (R&H)
Road Division, Tangail

DFP-1484-25/1 G-166



Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi delivers a keynote address at the opening ceremony of the American International Assurance (AIA) new building in Kuala Lumpur on Saturday. Abdullah warned Malaysians to be on guard against attempts by the oppositions to sabotage the economy by spreading malicious rumours. — AFP photo

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা

দরপত্র বিজ্ঞপ্তি

নং-কম্পিউট-২২/কাগজপত্র বিক্রয়/৯৯/৪৩৪ তারিখঃ ২৬/০১/২০০০ইং

মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা এর এসএসসি ও এইচএসসি পরীক্ষা/৯৯ এর ব্যবহৃত নিম্নে উল্লিখিত কাগজপত্র যেখানে যে অবস্থায় আছে সে অবস্থায় বিক্রয়ের জন্য প্রকৃত ক্ষেত্রদের কাছ থেকে দরপত্র আহ্বান করা যাচ্ছে। দরদাতাগণ ইচ্ছা করলে কম্পিউটার কেন্দ্রে এসে মালামাল পরিদর্শন করতে পারেন। কাগজপত্রের বিবরণ নিম্নে দেওয়া হ'ল।

ক্রমিক নং	বিবরণ	সাইজ ও জিএসএম (আনুমানিক)	প্রতি কেজির মূল্য
১।	নেব্রাভিক উত্তরপত্র/এসআইএফ/ব্যবহারিক নথর পত্রের ও এমআর ফর্ম (অফসেট পেপার)	১১"X৮.৫" ৯০ GSM	
২।	উত্তরপত্রের ব্যবহৃত ওএনআর ফর্ম ১ম/২য় অংশ (অফসেট পেপার)	৮.৫" X৪.৫" ৯০ GSM	
৩।	বিভিন্ন প্রকার প্রিন্ট আউটের কাগজ (অফসেট পেপার)	১১"X১৪" ৯০ GSM	

আগামী ১৩.০২.২০০০ইং তারিখে (১) সচিব, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা ও (২) চেয়ারম্যান, শিক্ষা বোর্ড কম্পিউটার কেন্দ্র, রোড নং-১২/এ, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৯ এ দুপুর ১২:০০ টার মধ্যে গ্রহণ করা হবে এবং একই দিন দুপুর ২:০০ টায় উপস্থিত দরদাতাদের সম্মুখে (যদি কেহ উপস্থিত থাকেন) চেয়ারম্যান, শিক্ষা বোর্ড কম্পিউটার কেন্দ্র, রোড নং-১২/এ, ধানমন্ডি আ/এ, ঢাকা-১২০৯তে খোলা হবে। দরপত্রের সাথে সোনালী ব্যালকের যে কোন শাখার ৩০,০০০.০০ (ত্রিশ হাজার) টাকার ডিডি/পে-অর্ডার আর্নেস্টম্যানি হিসাবে "সচিব, মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা"-এর অনুকূলে জমা দিতে হবে। গৃহীত দরদাতার আর্নেস্টম্যানি মোট মূল্যের সাথে সমন্বয় করা হবে। গৃহীত দরদাতাকে কার্যাদেশ প্রাপ্তির ৩ (তিন) দিনের মধ্যে মালামাল গুণন করার পর সমন্বয় মূল্য পরিদর্শন করে মালামাল গ্রহণ করতে হবে, অন্যথায় আর্নেস্টম্যানি বাজেয়াপ্ত করা হবে। কোন ক্রেমেই এই সমন্বয়ীমা বৃদ্ধি করা হবে না। অকৃতকার্য দরদাতাদের আর্নেস্টম্যানি নিয়মানুযায়ী ফেরত দেয়া হবে। উপরোক্ত ছকে দরপত্র দাখিল করতে হবে। দরপত্রের জন্য পৃথক কোন সিডিউল বিক্রয় করা হবে না। যে কোন/সকল দরপত্র গ্রহণ/বাতিল করার ক্ষমতা কর্তৃপক্ষ সংরক্ষণ করেন।

প্রফেসর মুঃ আবদুল দ্তিক
সচিব

ডিডি-৮১ মাধ্যমিক ও উচ্চ মাধ্যমিক শিক্ষা বোর্ড, ঢাকা।