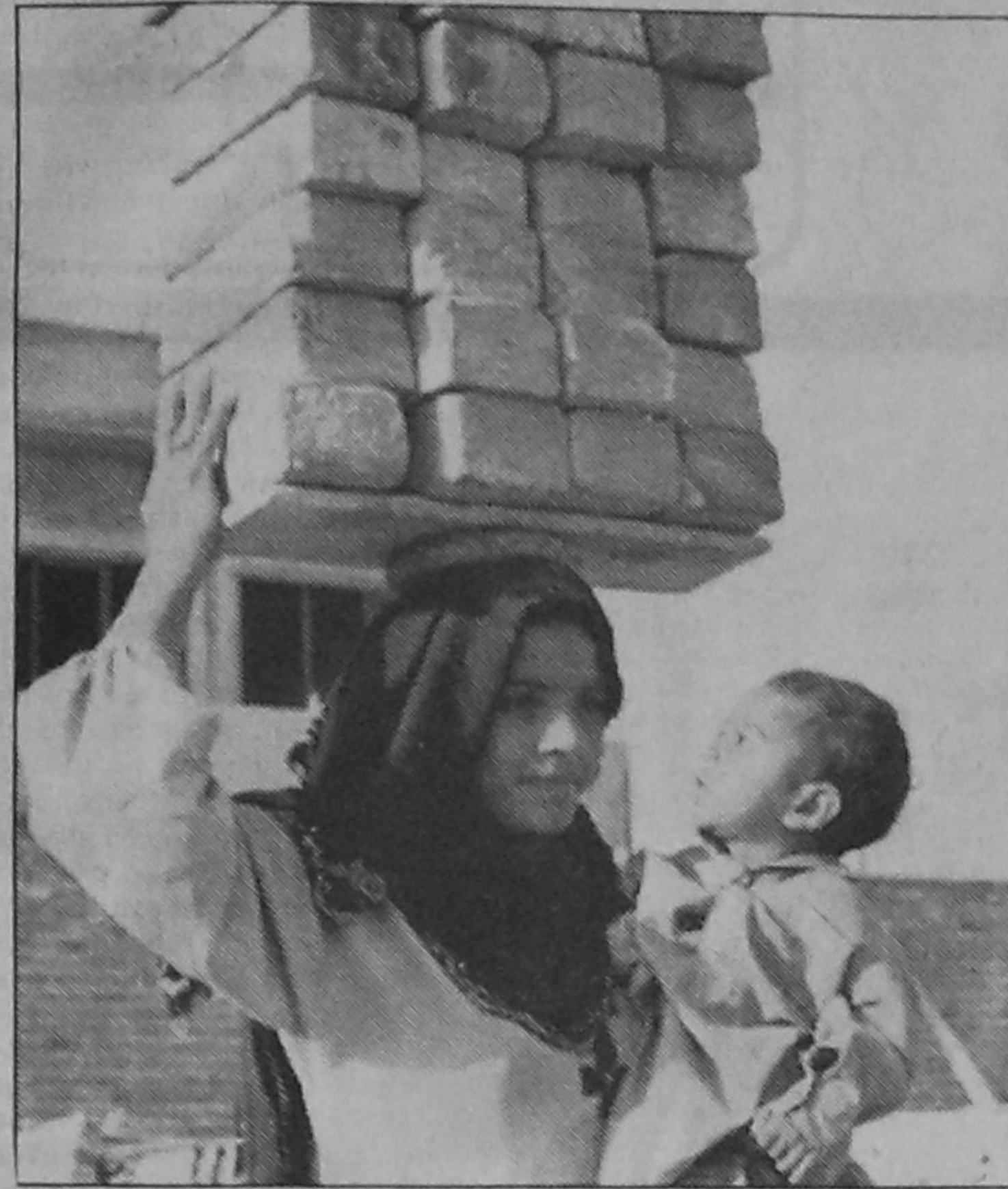


Asia marks Int'l Women's Day with calls for justice



A Pakistani woman labourer balances a pile of bricks on her head while carrying her child on a typical day's work at a construction site in Islamabad on Tuesday. Rallies and seminars were held in Pakistan yesterday to mark the International Women's Day and to raise awareness of women in this traditional society. — AFP photo

HONG KONG, Mar 8: An end to the cycles of poverty and violence, calls for fewer working hours and even the right to kill and be killed, dominated International Women's Day across Asia-Pacific today, reports AFP.

From Afghanistan to Noumea the underlying theme remained equality among the genders, but in Australia at least one gain for the women's movement carried a dubious distinction.

At the National Press Club in Canberra prominent feminist author Dale Spender said moves to lift restrictions on women in Defence forces serving in combat could not be counted as a great achievement.

In Cambodia -- where decades of civil war has rated the plight of women as among the worst in Southeast Asia -- there were no official events. But the capital was aflutter

with banners urging people to respect women as part of a program sponsored by the UN and the ministry of women's affairs, aimed at ending senseless violence against women.

Women affairs minister Mu Soehua told AFP Cambodia must change.

"It is custom and tradition that allows men to think that women can be beaten, can be sold, can be bought.

"It is ingrained not just in men, but women also believe that it is their destiny, this is what we need to change," she said.

In Islamabad, Pakistan military ruler General Pervez Musharraf pledged reforms at a women's convention.

Proposals included an amnesty for female prisoners held on minor charges, prohibiting child marriages, and curbing honour killings.

UN authorities in the same city announced Taliban authorities in neighbouring Afghanistan had showed some flexibility in attitudes towards women.

"There has been a change in

the Taliban approach and attitude," towards women's rights, said Sayed Ahmed Farah, acting UN Coordinator for Afghanistan.

The change was "due to persistent UN pressures and reflected their "desire not to be isolated from the international community."

In Tokyo 1,000 people appealed for women's rights to be protected in the 21st century.

"We are showing videos and speakers are making speeches on the theme of women in Asia at a time when the world faces poverty and violence," said Yoko Onomoto, from the Federation of Japanese Women's Organisations.

Another 350 people from all walks of life marched demanding an end to nuclear weapons.

"We will try to make Japan a country where all the men and women live impartially," the Japan Liaison March of Women 2000 said.

In South Korea trade unions were planning rallies for Sunday, hoping to draw around 2,000 people.

The Federation of Korean

Trade Unions wants reduced working hours for women, protection for child rearing and an end to sexual discrimination.

Rival, Korea Confederation of Trade Unions urged equal opportunity in employment and the protection of motherhood.

Nobel Laureate Aung San Suu Kyi has expressed her desire to march with women in celebration and has urged financial institutions to "develop care and compassion" for women.

"The weak and the needy are women and children," she said in a statement from Myanmar.

In Taipei Vice President Lien Chan, ruling Kuomintang candidates and presidential hopeful James Soong were expected to issue their election platform on women's issues.

And Thailand marked the day with a five-point demand, including declaring March 8 a public holiday, childcare funding, a reduction of workplace hazards, implementation of employment insurance and promoting female workers in policy-making.



Former Indonesian president Suharto (R) and President Abdurrahman Wahid hold hands as they walk to Suharto's living room for talks at his residence in Jakarta yesterday. Suharto personally welcomed Wahid when he arrived for his first meeting with him since assuming the presidency in October, and saw his guest off about an hour later. — AFP photo

BRIEFLY

Fresh fighting kills 14 in Lanka:

At least 12 Tamil Tiger guerrillas and two others were killed in fresh fighting in northern and eastern Sri Lanka, the defence ministry said Wednesday, AFP reports from Colombo.

Government forces shot dead 12 members of the separatist Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LITE) in five clashes in the northern peninsula of Jaffna on Tuesday, the ministry said in a statement. It said the rebels shot dead a government paramilitary trooper and a rival Tamil rebel in the eastern district of Batticaloa on the same day.

Five drug traffickers shot dead:

Thai troops Wednesday shot dead five traffickers from an ethnic minority caught smuggling drugs across the northern border with Myanmar, military sources said, AFP reports from Mae Ai, Thailand.

The drug suppression division of the northern wing of the army clashed with about 30 foreign traffickers in Mae Ai, 700 kilometres from Bangkok, they said. After the clash Thai forces found the bodies of five of the alleged drug traffickers. Thai troops have sealed off the area where the firefight occurred and deployed sniffer dogs to track the other alleged smugglers who were involved in the gun battle.

Chinese army asked to prepare for Taiwan war

BEIJING, Mar 8: China's military has been asked to "prepare actively" for war with Taiwan, the army daily reported today, as top leaders kept up a verbal barrage mixed with talk of peace ahead of Taiwan's presidential elections, reports AFP.

The call to the army was made during a meeting of senior military delegates to the ongoing annual session of the National People's Congress (NPC), the Liberation Army Daily said.

At the meeting presided over by Defence Minister Chi Haotian Tuesday, "12 delegates called for active and detailed preparations for a military conflict against Taiwan," the daily said.

Central Military Commission member Fu Quanyou was quoted as saying "we must abso-

lutely strengthen the sense of the army's role and prepare with all our efforts for the military conflict."

"If pro-independence forces seek to divide the country, we will be obliged to take very drastic measures," said Fu, who is also Chief of Staff of the People's Liberation Army.

But Chinese President Jiang Zemin Wednesday said he was "optimistic" over the prospects for peaceful reunification with the island and failed to spell out precise conditions on using force against Taiwan.

Jiang's remarks came at his first meeting with the foreign press since Beijing warned Taiwan in a White Paper last month, of war if the island dragged its feet on reunification talks and pursued an independence agenda.

He refused to define what would constitute Taiwan independence and to set a time limit on negotiations, saying, "today I want to keep you guessing, I don't want to go into any detail."

Taiwan has enjoyed de facto independence from China's one party communist system since 1949, while Beijing has insisted the island is a rebel province.

"I'm an optimist, I believe that the Chinese nation is so great that in the end there'll definitely be reunification," Jiang told reporters at the start of a meeting with Hong Kong delegates to the NPC.

The Chinese parliament, holding an annual 11-day session, has in the past four days heard carefully crafted warnings to Taiwan's electorate, from President Jiang, Premier

Zhu Rongji and top military generals.

In what has become a daily ritual as Taiwan's presidential elections on March 18 draw nearer, China has been hammering home the message to the nervous electorate that a move towards independence would bring war.

However, the United States has detected no major military moves by either China or Taiwan in the run-up to the presidential elections in Taiwan despite threats and warnings by China, the top US admiral in the Pacific said in Washington Tuesday.

"Both the deployment patterns of China and those of Taiwan and those of the United States are fairly normal during this time," Admiral Dennis Blair said.

Gore sweeps past Bradley in Super Tuesday primaries

NEW YORK, Mar 8: Al Gore cleared his way to the Democratic presidential nomination with a Super Tuesday primary sweep from Maine to California that pushed Bill Bradley to the brink of withdrawal, reports AP.

"We need to build on our record of prosperity," the vice president said, turning his focus toward November's general election and his apparent Republican opponent, Texas Gov. George W. Bush.

Gore used his victory address before a national audience to put Republicans on notice for the brutal presidential campaign ahead on issues from abortion to the environment to gun control.

"We don't need to go back to where we were eight years ago. They tried their approach before," Gore said, referring to deficit-ridden Republican administrations. "It produced a triple-dip recession and quagmired the national debt."

"We are the party of the mainstream. We are the party of hope. We appeal to hope, not anger or exclusion."

Gore won from New York to Georgia to Ohio to California, and at several stops in between, regularly gaining 60 per cent of the vote or more.

"He won, I lost," said

Bradley, all but conceding his challenge was over.

Two Democratic party officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said campaign aides had told them the former New Jersey senator planned to depart the race on Thursday.

Polling place interviews with voters in every region of the country underscored the vice president's strength among core constituencies vital in Democratic primaries.

Blacks preferred Gore over Bradley by a margin of 6-1; an Hispanics by 8-1. The margin among union members was smaller, but a healthy 3-1. Gore also own the vote of independents, a key element of Bradley's electoral strategy, and a group that the Democratic nominee will need in the general election race. The exit polling was conducted by Voter News Service, a consortium of the AP and television networks.

The vice president fashioned his shutout while Texas Gov. George W. Bush was gaining the upper hand in his battle for the Republican nomination, defeating John McCain in several big-state primaries.

A Bush candidacy would set up a general election matchup between two 50-something scions of political families.

Government of Bangladesh Office of the Executive Engineer PWD Division, Kushtia **Tender Notice**

- Tender Notice : 66/99-2000.
No
- Name of work : Reconst of compound wall attached to Fire Station at Kushtia.
- Estimated cost : Tk 7,83,373/00
- Earnest money : Tk 15,668/00
- Place of sell : Office of all the Executive Engineers, PWD Division under PWD Circle, Jessore.
- Place of receiving of tender : Office of all the Executive Engineers, PWD Division under PWD Circle, Jessore.
- Last date of selling tender : On 21.3.2000 during the office hours.
- Date of receiving and opening of the tender : Up to 12.00 Noon of 22.3.2000 & will be opened on the same day at 12.15 PM.
- Eligibility of contractor/firm : Enlisted & valid building contractor/firm of PWD according to their financial capacity.

DFP-5104-5/3
G-443

Executive Engineer
PWD Division, Kushtia

India should implement UN resolution: China

Talks on security issues end

BEIJING, Mar 8: India told China during their first ever security dialogue this week that the Indian nuclear weapons programme should be viewed with "understanding," diplomatic sources said today, reports AFP.

The sources were reacting to China's blunt refusal Tuesday to weaken its opposition to India's nuclear weapons programme.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao had said India should implement "comprehensively and seriously" a United Nations Security Council resolution asking India to roll back its nuclear weapons programme.

Zhu was speaking at a news briefing as senior officials from the two countries wound up a two-day meeting on security issues that was intended to help break down decades of mistrust.

On the nuclear issue, diplomatic sources said "India conveyed to the Chinese side its views on (the Council's) resolution and stressed that sensitivity to each other's security concerns was necessary for a productive dialogue."

The sources said the appeal meant India was seeking China's "understanding" on the is-

sue. Relations between the world's two most populous countries took a nasty downturn after India conducted a series of underground nuclear tests in May, 1998.

Beijing was furious as India sought to justify the tests by pointing to a perceived threat from China's nuclear arsenal.

Analysts say China has been taking the lead among the permanent members of the United Nations Security Council -- which also includes Britain, France, Russia and the United States -- in pressing India for a roll back of its nuclear programme.

China, along with the other four members of the Security Council, is a nuclear weapons state recognised by the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

China is reported to have asked the United States not to ease up on the Council's stand on India's nuclear programme.

In a bid to repair the damage done by the tests, Indian Foreign Minister Jaswant Singh visited Beijing last June. It was then that this week's talks were agreed on.

Diplomatic sources said the Indian side at the talks also conveyed "its concern that Chi-

na's support for Pakistan's nuclear and missile programmes which have adverse impact on regional stability to which India has been obliged to respond..."

The Indian side at the talks was led by the foreign ministry's joint secretary in charge of disarmament affairs, Rakesh Sood, and the Chinese side by director general of its foreign ministry Asian department, Zhang Jiuquan.

"The security dialogue between the two countries is conducive for the enhancement of understanding between the two sides and expanding consensus and promoting cooperation," Chinese spokesman Zhu said Tuesday.

India says China still holds 40,000 square kilometres of its territory in Kashmir, while Beijing lays claim to part of the far-eastern Indian state of Arunachal Pradesh.

The disputes drew the two countries into a brief but bloody war in 1962.

Indian President K.R. Narayanan plans to visit China in May to mark 50 years of diplomatic relations with Beijing.

Violence against women in S Asia extensive: UNICEF

UNITED NATIONS, Mar 8: Violence against women in South Asia is "far more extensive than is generally acknowledged," a forthcoming study by the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF) says, reports AFP.

It describes various methods used to inflict physical damage and pain on women, "some direct, others indirect and slow."

They include stove-burning -- kitchen "accidents" arranged to injure or kill young brides -- and acid attacks, which it says are a growing menace in Bangladesh and Pakistan.

On Tuesday, UNICEF executive director Carol Bellamy issued a call to governments to recognise and work to modify customs which have made "honour killings" and acid attacks acceptable.

"For too long, some men have been getting away with murder," she said in a statement to mark International Women's Day on March 8.

Bellamy condemned "honour" crimes -- murders by men of female relatives they suspect of sexual activity outside marriage -- acid attacks, dowry deaths, and female infanticide. The statement conceded that "no reliable infanticide statistics are available," but Bellamy

said in an interview "it tends to happen more in Asia."

United Nations statistics "indicate a huge number of missing girls," she told AFP, and added that "this suggests that infanticide continues without diminishing."

Bellamy said she had chosen homicidal violence against women for this year's International Day message because of "the increasing recognition of the role of women and girls in development."

Gender prejudice was one of the four major obstacles to development, along with war, poverty and HIV/AIDS, she said.

Fear of sexual predators was "one of the reasons parents don't want girls to walk to school," she added.

Girls and young women between 12 and 25 years old are the most frequent victims of acid attacks, often by disappointed suitors, the UNICEF study says.

"The attacks leave them scarred and often blinded," it says. "The impact of nitric or sulphuric acid on the body is catastrophic; it causes skin tissue to melt, often leaving the bones exposed underneath."

The study, due out in June, says victims often face social isolation, if not outright rejection.

It says there was "an alarming increase" in acid attacks in Bangladesh, from 47 reported cases in 1996 to more than 200 in 1998, but adds "it is highly likely that the number of actual cases is considerably higher."

Recently, it says, children, older women and sometimes men are being attacked over family and land disputes or dowry demands.

"Dowry death is usually accomplished by burning," the report says.

"Official figures are generally considered to be low," it adds because most murders are reported as suicide.

It quotes the Institute for Development and Communication (IDC) in Chandigarh as saying "a staggering 17,649 cases of dowry harassment" occurred in Punjab, India, in 1995, although only 59 were reported to the police.

IDC estimates that for every reported case, 229 went unreported and notes that, according to the Indian police, there were 6,006 dowry deaths in 1997.

চামড়া গবেষণা ইনস্টিটিউট Leather Research Institute BCSIR Nayerhat, Savar Dhaka Dated: 06-03-2000

International Re-Tender Notice

Sealed tenders are hereby invited from bonafide foreign supplier/manufacturer(s) etc or their local representatives for supply of the following equipment for the Leather Research Institute of BCSIR, Nayerhat, Savar, Dhaka.

Sl No	Tender No	Short title of equipment	Source of fund	Cost of tender document
1.	LRI/Equipment Pur/99-2000/12(Part-3)/Int	Leather Processing Equipment	Foreign exchange	750/-

Intending bidder(s) may buy tender document with details of terms and conditions from the Accounts Officer, Leather Research Institute, BCSIR, Nayerhat, Savar or Project Director, Leather Research Institute, PP & PDC BCSIR, Dhaka on payment of the price mentioned above up to 02.04.2000.

Tender may be dropped into the tender box kept in the office of the Project Director, Leather Research Institute, PP & PDC BCSIR, Dhaka-1205 or may be sent to the Project Director by post or courier service as to reach him by 3.00 PM on or before 03-04-2000 which will be opened on the date at 3.05 PM in presence of the bidder(s)/representative(s), if any. The authority reserves the right to accept or reject the tender without assigning any reason.

Project Director
Leather Research Institute
GD-225

Syrian govt resigns

DAMASCUS, Mar 8: President Hafez al-Assad has named a senior official of his ruling Baath Party as the new prime minister after the government resigned in the first Cabinet shake-up in about 8 years, reports AP.

Assad picked Mohammed Mustafa Miro, the governor of the northern Aleppo province, to form a new Cabinet, presidential spokesman Jibrin Kourich said Tuesday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Taxation Training Directorate/BCS (Taxation) Academy
133 & 133/3, Kakrail, New Bailey Road, Dhaka

File No-TE(29) DT/BCS (T)/2000/166

Dated: 06-03-2000

Notice regarding results of viva-voce test held from 23-01-2000 to 01-03-2000 on the basis of written test for registration of Income Tax Practitioner (ITP)

This is for information of all concerned that as part of task of registration of Income Tax Practitioner, the viva-voce test was held in the academy from 23-01-2000 to 01-03-2000 for the candidates who were successful in the written test conducted by the Taxation Training Directorate/BCS (Taxation) Academy on 01-10-99. A total of 377 (three hundred and seventy-seven) candidates listed below bearing the following serial numbers (ITP' attached before each serial number) have been successful finally. Successful candidates have been recommended to the National Board of Revenue for registration as Income Tax Practitioners.

List of serial number of the candidates who have been successful finally

- 0001, 0004 0008, 0009, 0012, 0015, 0019, 0025, 0031, 0043, 0045, 0052, 0056, 0058, 0061, 0062, 0066, 0069, 0070, 0071, 0073, 0076, 0077, 0084, 0087, 0088, 0089, 0092, 0096, 0097, 0100, 0101, 0103, 0106, 0110, 0115, 0116, 0119, 0122, 0125, 0130, 0131, 0132, 0135, 0140, 0144, 0145, 0151, 0152, 0153, 0155, 0161, 0168, 0173, 0183, 0184, 0185, 0189, 0190, 0191, 0192, 0194, 0203, 0208, 0212, 0213, 0215, 0217, 0219, 0220, 0227, 0230, 0242, 0247, 0249, 0250, 0252, 0254, 0259, 0260, 0262, 0263, 0264, 0271, 0273, 0274, 0279, 0280, 0281, 0282, 0292, 0294, 0298, 0300, 0305, 0306, 0318, 0331, 0332, 0337, 0338, 0341, 0342, 0344, 0346, 0350, 0351, 0352, 0366, 0368, 0371, 0372, 0373, 0374, 0377, 0378, 0381, 0387, 0389, 0391, 0394, 0395, 0396, 0398, 0400, 0403, 0405, 0407, 0408, 0409, 0410, 0412, 0413, 0418, 0419, 0426, 0427, 0429, 0430, 0431, 0432, 0434, 0435, 0441, 0442, 0443, 0446, 0447, 0449, 0352, 0454, 0455, 0456, 0457, 0460, 0462, 0464, 0465, 0468, 0469, 0470, 0471, 0473, 0474, 0475, 0477, 0478, 0479, 0480, 0481, 0482, 0483, 0484, 0485, 0489, 0490, 0491, 0496, 0497, 0500, 0505, 0506, 0516, 0522, 0528, 0530, 0536, 0537, 0543, 0544, 0545, 0550, 0551, 0552, 0555, 0556, 0558, 0564, 0565, 0567, 0569, 0570, 0572, 0575, 0576, 0578, 0580, 0586, 0588, 0589, 0590, 0593, 0605, 0606, 0607, 0610, 0611, 0612, 0613, 0624, 0625, 0631, 0632, 0636, 0637, 0640, 0651, 0658, 0661, 0662, 0663, 0665, 0668, 0669, 0671, 0672, 0673, 0677, 0679, 0681, 0686, 0687, 0691, 0692, 0694, 0695, 0696, 0700, 0702, 0707, 0709, 0712, 0720, 0723, 0724, 0725, 0726, 0727, 0728, 0729, 0731, 0732, 0736, 0738, 0748, 0751, 0759, 0767, 0768, 0770, 0773, 0784, 0785, 0791, 0797, 0809, 0810, 0811, 0812, 0819, 0820, 0834, 0837, 0842, 0845, 0847, 0859, 0861, 0862, 0869, 0871, 0873, 0877, 0880, 0882, 0883, 0885, 0887, 0893, 0894, 0895, 0897, 0906, 0908, 0910, 0911, 0913, 0920, 0921, 0922, 0923, 0925, 0926, 0936, 0940, 0942, 0947, 0948, 0952, 0953, 0954, 0956, 0957, 0958, 0959, 0961, 0963, 0966, 0968, 0980, 0990, 0991, 0998, 1003, 1004, 1006, 1008, 1013, 1014, 1015, 1017, 1018, 1021, 1022, 1023, 1024, 1027, 1038, 1039, 1040, 1044, 1046, 1048, 1053, 1055, 1057, 1065, 1077, 1081, 1083, 1084, 1085, 1089, 1090, 1091, 1096, 1102, 1103, 1104, 1113, 1119, 1121, 1141, 1144, 1156, 1188, 1244, = 377 candidates

DFP-5501-7/3
G-441

Faruq Hossain
Director
Taxation Training Directorate
Dhaka