

Albright visits BRAC school, ATSEC

US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright met with two local NGOs during her visit to Bangladesh on Monday, says a USIS press release.

After accompanying President Clinton to his meeting with Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina, Albright visited the Bangladesh Rural Advancement Committee (BRAC) School in Green Road Area, and "Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children" (ATSEC) in Dharmoudi.

During her visit to the ATSEC headquarters, Albright met with some victims of trafficking. She then witnessed the signing of a USAID grant awarding the NGO network 1,167,000 dollar to combat the trafficking of women and children in Bangladesh.

Albright noted that although she and President Clinton had been raising global awareness of this problem for the past four years, there has been relatively little government action against those who traffic in women and children.

She said trafficking was the third largest money earner for organised crime, just after sales of illegal drugs and weapons.

Four Members of the US Congress accompanied the Secretary, who observed that it was a good sign that the very people who are able to take action against trafficking had come to Bangladesh to learn about the problem first hand. The Members of Congress were Nita Lowey, Sheila Jackson-Lee, Jim Greenwood, and Janice Schakowsky.

Rina Sengupta of Save the Children, Denmark, told the

secretary that there is a general lack of knowledge of the nature and extent of the trafficking problem, which has prevented a systematic approach and strategy to combat this serious problem.

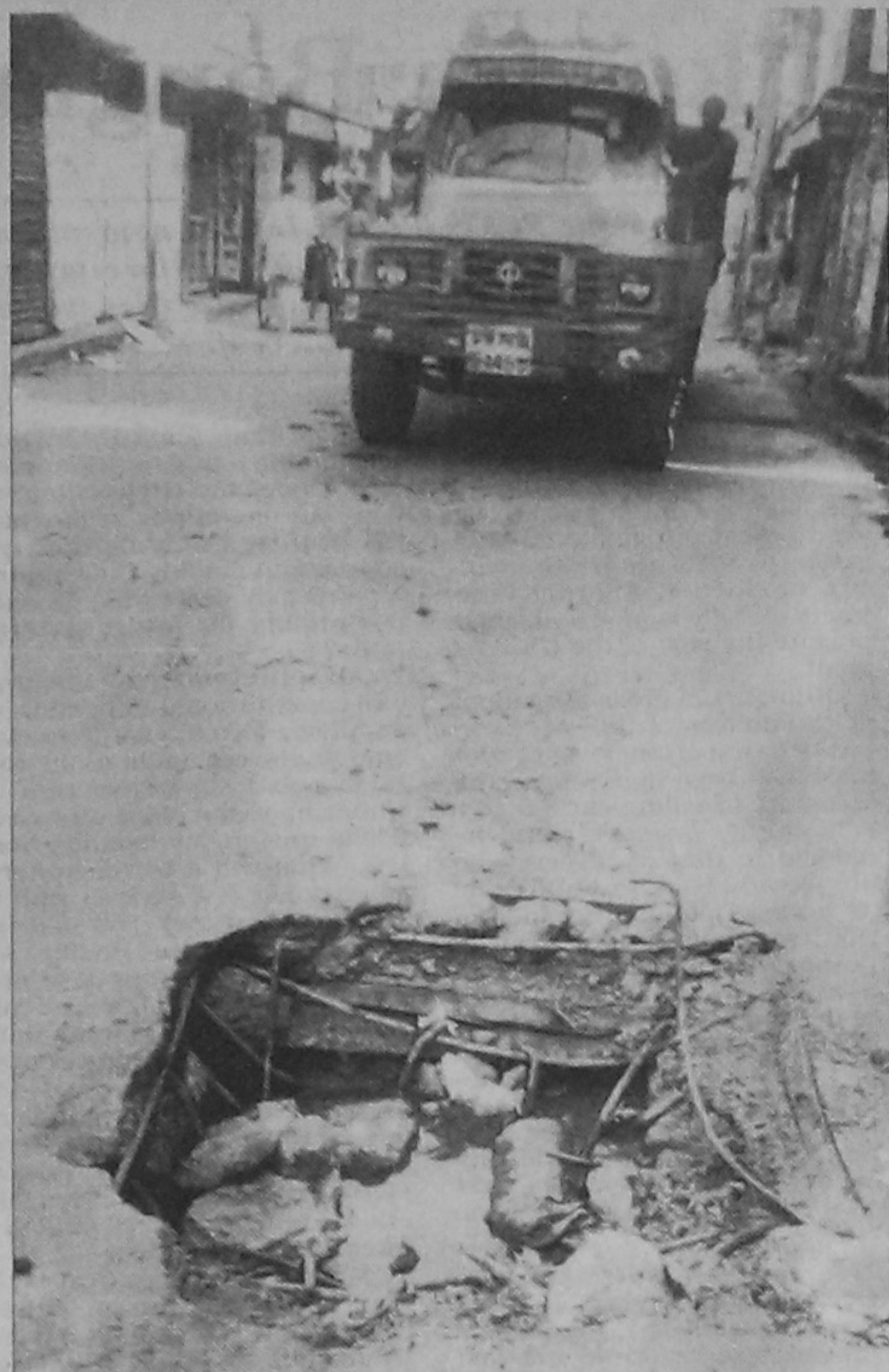
The USAID funds consist of two awards to provide a comprehensive programme for community and legal awareness, data collection, trafficking prevention, and reintegration of trafficking victims in up to ten districts of the country.

Victims are trafficked within Bangladesh, to other countries in the region, and the Middle East. Although reliable statistics on trafficking are not available, figures cited range from 10,000 to 20,000 cases of trafficking per year. Those at greatest risk of being targeted in Bangladesh for trafficking include poor, divorced, separated and widowed women and their children, migrants and ethnic minorities, and the illiterate.

"We have heard the stories of the victims," Secretary Albright told the ATSEC staff in a roundtable discussion, "and it is their images that we will take with us as we pursue this issue around the globe."

The Secretary also attended classes of mixed gender students of the BRAC School. She told them: "Girls can do anything boys can do. We are all equal."

The Secretary received gifts of drawings and information about the school from the students. On behalf of the US Government, Albright presented BRAC director with supplies for the school, including books, maps, notebooks, educational puzzles and games, and other supplies.



This uncovered manhole at Horichoron Road at Faridabad in the old city poses a threat to man and vehicle alike. Locals allege that the hole was repaired and duly covered at least four times in the past year. But each time the iron lid mysteriously disappeared within days of its installation. — Star photo

Air freight charge for agri products to be reduced

The government has agreed to rationally reduce air freight charges for agricultural products that exporters say is too high, reports UNB.

A high-level meeting yesterday also formed a committee to prescribe measures to increase agricultural production and expand market of agro-based products.

Non-traditional agricultural products like vegetables, fruits, flowers and betel leaf contribute insignificantly to the country's export income. Exporters feel that the sector can contribute more if special incentives, including low air fares are given.

Vegetable export earned 7.39 million US dollars in the first seven months of the current fiscal year.

The committee, headed by Export Promotion Bureau vice-chairman AB Chowdhury, has been asked to report to the Commerce Minister with a complete assessment of the state of the sector.

The meeting also said that agriculture and agro-processing sectors are among the thrust sectors that receive special incentives from the government and will continue to do so.

The meeting directed the EPB authorities to diversify the export basket, reducing dependence on the few export items. It reaffirmed the government's all-out support to exporters of non-traditional items and called upon entrepreneurs to produce and market new items.

The meeting was told that the government has already extended tariff facilities to the entrepreneurs of this sector and if needed, more facilities will be offered to harness full potential of the sector.

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Must be a retired JCO, or Petty Officer or Warrant Officer of the Bangladesh defence service, must possess a good physique, having at least 5 (five) years service experience in reputed national/international organisations.

Interested candidates are requested to apply with detailed CV, 3 copies of recent passport size photograph and attested copies of all educational/training/service experience certificates to the Secretary, Chittagong Club Limited, Chittagong.

The application must reach this office latest by the 27th March, 2000. D-288

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US Secretary of State Madeleine Albright (2nd L) witnesses the signing of a USAID grant for Action Against Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation of Children (ATSEC), an NGO network, on Monday.

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Ministry of Jute
Bangladesh Secretariat, Dhaka

No-MQJ/Sh-3/BJCSC/66/Tender-16/97/49 Date: 12/3/2000

Re-Tender Notice No-16/97/ (10th Call)

Tenders are hereby invited by the undersigned for selling the assets of the undermentioned group of the abolished BJC on as and where it is basis. Tender schedule and terms and conditions will have to be purchased till 27-3-2000 from Head Office of BJC (Adamjee Court Annex Building-2, 119-120, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka) on payment of Taka 100/- (one hundred) (non-refundable) in the forms of DD/Pay Order/Bank Draft from any scheduled bank to the Secretary of the Ministry of Jute. The volume of assets as given in the tender may be more/less. Earnest money at the rate of 2 1/2% in the forms of Pay Order/Bank Draft as per terms and conditions in the tender will have to be deposited with tender.

If any tenderer submits tender as group then the volume of asset against their names including the list of their names will have to be submitted with tender. Otherwise, tenders will not be acceptable. The purchaser of the asset will have to pay advance income tax at the rate of 3% of the sale value at the time of payment of cost of the asset as per income tax provision.

Tenders will be received in the tender box kept at the (Bhaban-6, Room No-708 & 710), Ministry of Jute, Bangladesh Secretariat till 2:30 PM on 28-3-2000. Tenders received will be opened the same day at 3:00 PM in presence of the tenderers (if anyone remains present). The authority reserves the power to reject/accept tenders partially or all at any stage without assigning any reason.

Description of assets

Group no	Name and address of compound	Mouza	Khatian no	Dag no	Volume of land
3	5.8170 acres of land including office, 16 warehouses, 10 residential houses, other buildings, trees of different sizes on as and where it is basis (including boundary wall) of Karim Commercial of abolished BJC at Nabiganj under Bandar Thana of Narayanganj District. Valued price = Taka 3,01,95,663/-	Nabiganj	53.85	82, 63, 64, 689, 68, 70, 65, 690, 166, 67, 69	5.8170 acres

Md Shafiqur Rahman
Assistant Secretary
Ministry of Jute &
Member-Secretary
Committee for Selling Assets of Abolished BJC
Phone: 8610379

DFP-6061-14/3 G-508

Government of the People's Republic of Bangladesh

Department of Supply and Inspection

Invitation of Tender

The following tenders are invited by the Department of Supply and Inspection. All the registered firms of this Department in the relevant group and other well-established firm subject to submission of application well in advance and if considered fit by the authority.

Sl No	Tender no. & nature	Short description of stores	Value of tender set (non-refundable)	Last date & time for submission of tender
1.	S - 13 / S ty & Paper/Local/135/99-2000 date: 12-3-2000.	White & Yellow Vanguard Board.	Tk 450/-	On 30-3-2000 at 11:00 AM.
2.	S - 13 / S ty & Paper/Local/137/99-2000 date: 13-3-2000.	Pencil Carbon Paper.	Tk 450/-	On 2-4-2000 at 11:00 AM.
3.	S-8/Engg-1/Local/138/99-2000 date: 13-3-2000.	Paper Shader Feeding.	Tk 100/-	On 30-3-2000 at 11:00 AM.

No tender will be sold on the date of submission of tender.

Tenders obtainable from:

1. Department of Supply & Inspection, 48, Motijheel C/A (4th Floor), Dhaka.
2. Department of Supply & Inspection (Shipping), CGO Building, Agrabad, Chittagong.
3. Department of Supply & Inspection (Shipping), 51, Farazipara Road, Khulna.
4. Place for submission of tender : Department of Supply & Inspection (4th Floor), 48, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka.

DFP-6469-19/3 G-512

Feroz Ahmed Khan
Asstt Director (CDN).

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